(These two species of Salvinia look alike for the uninitiated, but the weevil can tell them apart)ssss. After a series of experiments CPQO recommended to the LTC to release the weevils from quarantine for field tests.

The initial field releases were made in October, 1986 under large field cages at Kadawatte. These also serves as field nurseries to multiply the weevils. A similar field nursry was established by Mr. Gunatilake in Jan. 1987 at Gammanpila. The Kadawatte test site was visited by the members of the two committees in February, 1987 and a unanimous decision was made to release the weevils from captivity. The first harvest of weevils and redistributed soon after the Kadupaharawewa.

Right now the project is on high gear. Several similar redistributions are envisaged. The Department of Irrigation has indicated that about 20,000 ac. of rice fields are known to be clogged with salvinia. It is hoped that this self-propagating biocontrol agent would spread far and wide to all these areas in due course of time and bring the Salvinia under control.

ALTERING INSECTS BRAIN CHEMISTRY: A NOVEL APPROACH TO INSECT PEST CONTROL FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Dr. C. Kudagamage, Entomologist,
Central Agricultural Research Institute,
Gannoruwa.

Insects continuously pose problems to mankind by being pests of his crops, animals and himself. Insecticides have played an important role in man's continual battle with insects. However, majority of insecticides presently used are broad-spectrum killing agents. They lack selectivity and kill helpful insects in addition to harmful ones, and may also be toxic to birds and mammals. Consequently, there is a strong public opinion against the use of toxic chemicals for insect control. This has led scientists to explore safer alternative methods of insect control. One of the exciting approaches is to manipulate insect's brain chemistry to inhibit their growth and multiplication.

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