

SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

Control of Fennel Thrips—*Hercothrips indicus*

Shri H. L. Kulkarny and R. C. Patel, Entomological Laboratory, Institute of Agriculture, Anand, write as follows:—During 1952, the fennel crop in North Gujerat suffered very heavily due to the attack of thrips, *Hercothrips indicus*. Within 11 days the population of thrips per unit length examined rose from 2.4 to 97.6. Out of the various insecticides tried for the control of thrips, 0.2 per cent. D.D.T. water suspension spray with nicotine sulphate diluted as per standard formulations gave reduction in the population of thrips by 97.0 per cent. at the end of two weeks. Nicotine sulphate when sprayed alone gave 87.1 per cent. kill but then, reinfestation by the pest was noticed after a lapse of six days. In case of D.D.T. nicotine treatments, the fennel crop was at a very low level of infestation—5.2 insects per unit length examined. EHC water suspension sprays at 0.2 per cent. concentration gave similar results as in nicotine compound alone. Only one good spray of D.D.T.—nicotine sulphate, was sufficient to control the pest. The authors are grateful to Dr. G. A. Patel for the identification of insects.

A Natural Chimera in Groundnut (*Arachis hypogaea* L.)

Sri. O. P. Tyagi of the Botany Section, Government Agricultural College, Kanpur, writes as follows:

A chimeral plant of groundnut was observed having all its branches normally green except two, one of which was half-green and half non-green or white and the other one having light green tinge all over. The upper leaves borne by the former branch were all pure white throughout and the two lower-most ones had three kinds of leaflets, viz., (1) normal green, (2) half-green and half-white, and (3) pure white. The leaves borne by the latter one were all pure white.

Need for Indian Medical Abstracts

Shri. S. G. Chandavarkar, Librarian, Osmania Medical College, Afzal Gunj, Hyderabad-Deccan, suggests that medical associations in India should take active steps to compile and bring out an index (or abstracts) of articles published in Indian Medical Journals on lines similar to those of the *Quarterly Cumulative*

Index Medicus (American Medical Association) or the *Abstracts of World Medicine* (British Medical Association). Such a compilation will be of immense help to research workers both in India and abroad.

Plant Protection Bulletin

The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations has begun publication of the monthly *Plant Protection Bulletin*, devoted to the global problem of combating plant diseases and pests. An important feature of the Bulletin will be plant quarantine announcements: this is the first time that such information is made available on a world-wide scale.

European Nuclear Research Laboratory

A site near Geneva, Switzerland, has been selected for the Nuclear Research Laboratory. The laboratory which will take about seven years to build and equip, will house the world's most powerful cosmotron rated at 30,000 million electron volts. There will also be a synchro-cyclotron with a rating of 600 million electron volts. The laboratory is meant exclusively for pure research, the results of which will be supplied freely to all member nations of the European Council for Atomic Research, an organization founded recently with the help of UNESCO.

Nicotine Sulphate from Tobacco Wastes

A simple process has been developed at the National Chemical Laboratory, Poona, which renders recovery of nicotine sulphate from Indian tobacco wastes an economic proposition. The process (covered by Indian Patent Nos. 45666 and 46994) consists of pulverising tobacco waste, mixing it with lime and extraction of the mixture with a solution of common salt. The resultant broth is suitably stabilised and extracted with kerosene in a specially designed column. Nicotine is recovered from the kerosene solution by fixing it with dilute sulphuric acid. The kerosene can be recycled without any further treatment. An overall recovery of 93 per cent. is obtained. The process has been successfully tried both on a laboratory scale and pilot plant scale. The equipment required is simple and can be easily assembled. Further details can be had from the Industrial Economist, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi.

Point-contact Transistors

The Philips Factories in Holland have announced two types of point-contact transistors, OC 50 and OC 51. The OC 50 is intended for general amplifying purposes. The OC 51 is meant for switching applications. These transistors have the shape of small cartridges of about $\frac{1}{2}$ " length and $\frac{1}{4}$ " in diameter, with two wires leading out at one side. The metal casing serves as the third electrode. We understand that samples of these transistors will be available shortly in this country.

Box Cultivation of Vegetables

The highly useful method of box cultivation of vegetables has been described in the January-February 1951 issue of *Indian Farming*.

With proper care it may be of much help in the self-sufficiency drive in respect of food. The advantage of this method is that the boxes can be easily moved and vegetables can be grown on open roofs and verandahs of buildings.

The Indian Science Congress, 1954

The following Office-bearers were elected for the next session of the Indian Science Congress to be held at Hyderabad: *President*: Dr. S. L. Hora; *General Secretaries*: Dr. S. R. Sen Gupta and Dr. B. N. Prasad; *Treasurer*: Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis.

The following have been elected as Presidents of the various sections: *Mathematics*: Dr. S. K. Chakravarty (Calcutta); *Statistics*: Dr. K. R. Nair (Dehra Dun); *Physics*: Dr. P. S. Gill (Aligarh); *Chemistry*: Dr. V. Subrahmanyam (Mysore); *Geology and Geography*: Dr. H. L. Chhibber (Benaras); *Botany*: Dr. S. N. Das Gupta (Lucknow); *Zoology and Entomology*: Dr. D. V. Bal (Delhi); *Anthropology and Archaeology*: Shri. Dharani Dhar Sen (Lucknow); *Medical and Veterinary Sciences*: Dr. R. N. Chowdhury (Calcutta); *Agricultural*

Sciences: Dr. B. P. Pal (New Delhi); *Physiology*: Dr. P. B. Sen (Calcutta); *Psychology and Educational Sciences*: Dr. Surhid Sinha (Calcutta); *Engineering and Metallurgy*: Shri. H. N. Srivastava (Jubbulpore).

Dr. S. Husain Zaheer

Dr. S. Husain Zaheer, Director, Central Laboratories for Scientific and Industrial Research, Hyderabad, and Head of the Department of Chemical Technology, Osmania University, will be proceeding to Europe and U.S.A. on a United Nations Economic Development Senior Fellowship. While abroad, he will study various industries, especially coal, ceramics, oils and fine chemicals, their relation with research laboratories, the developmental projects and method of passing completed processes for large-scale manufacture.

Symposium on Chromatography

Under the auspices of the Society of Biological Chemists, India, a Symposium on Chromatography will be held on the 3rd and 4th April 1953 in the Power Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Award of Research Degree

The Andhra University has awarded the Degree of Doctor of Science in Physics to Mr. Bh. Krishnamurti for his thesis entitled "Ultrasonic Studies in Electrolytes and Liquid Mixtures", and to Mr. V. G. Krishnamurti for his thesis entitled "Structure of the Band Spectra of the Halides of Cobalt and Nickel".

ERRATUM

Vol. 22, No. 2, p. 50: Note on "Further Evidence from Fish Distribution of the Rise in Salinity of the River Hooghly": Reference 2 should read as follows: (2) Pillay, T. V. R., *Curr. Sci.*, 1953, 22, 82.

NOTICE

All material intended for publication in *Current Science*, corrected proofs, books for review and exchange journals, may please be sent to the Editor:

Professor G. N. Ramachandran,
A. C. College of Technology,
Madras-25.

Remittances, correspondence regarding subscriptions to the journal, advertisements and requests for missing numbers, etc., may please be addressed to:

The Manager,
Current Science Association,
Malleswaram P.O., Bangalore-3.