

**PRELIMINARY STUDIES ON SCREENING PLANT SPECIES FOR
POTENTIAL DIVERSIONARY HOSTS FOR
XYLEBORUS FORNICATUS OF TEA**

L D Amarasinghe¹

(Tea Research Institute of Sri Lanka, Talawakelle)

and

N Tharshani Devy

(Department of Agriculture Biology, University of Jaffna,
Jaffna, Sri Lanka)

A study was conducted to find plant species that can be used as diversionary hosts for *Xyleborus fornicatus* of tea. Twenty nine plant species were assayed during this study and they were categorized into four groups in respect of the beetle behaviour. They include the followings; a) plants that never attract the beetles; b) plant species that attract the beetles and bore galleries, thereafter kill by different means; c) plant species that attract the beetles and bore galleries but neither with brood development nor killing effect; and d) plants that attract the beetles and bore galleries thereafter, further development of the brood too occur.

Tithonia diversifolia and *Solonum indicum* did not allow the beetles to bore them while *Grevillea robusta* and *Eupatorium iniulifolium* are the only two plant species found to attract beetles and kill effectively.