

## HOST RANGE OF LIRIOMYZA SATIVAE IN THE BATTICALOA DISTRICT

R. F. Niranjana<sup>1</sup>, H.N.P.Wijeyaguneseekara<sup>2</sup> & S.Raveendranath<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Agronomy, Faculty of Agriculture, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

<sup>2</sup>Department of Agric. Biology, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya

<sup>3</sup>Vice Chancellor, Eastern University, Sri Lanka

### ABSTRACT

*Liriomyza sativae* Blanchard is a serious insect pest in the Batticaloa district of Sri Lanka, which attack a numerous vegetable crops and ornamental plants. However, no studies were conducted in the Batticaloa district on their host range. Four hundred and fifty farmer fields were randomly selected from 17 Agricultural Instructor divisions in the Batticaloa district for this survey. From the commencement of cultivation field visiting and observations were carried out in each farmer field and their adjoining area to observe the host range of *L. sativae*.

Fifteen vegetable, three wild and one ornamental plant were recorded as host plants of *L. sativae* in the Batticaloa district. *Chrysanthemum* was the most preferred host of *L. sativae*. The protein content of host plant does not influence in host selection in *L. sativae*. Among the vegetable crops, Okra, Brinjal and Sword bean were infested by *L. sativae* during their seedling stage. No infestation was observed in mature plants.

**Key Words:** *Liriomyza sativae*, host, vegetable, wild plants, ornamental plant, Batticaloa district