# THE USE OF NICKEL CHLORIDE AND 'PEREZIN' FOR THE CONTROL OF BLISTER BLIGHT (*EXOBASIDIUM VEXANS* MASSEE) ON TEA

R. L. de Silva

Nickel chloride hexahydrate, containing 25% nickel, and 'Perezin', containing 25% copper and 30% zinc, were found to control Blister blight (*Exobasidium vexans* Massee) on mature tea satisfactorily under mild monsoon conditions at the rate of 4 oz in 15 gallons of water per acre using knapsack sprayers (de Silva 1965). It is suggested that these compounds be used in estate trials on mature tea in plucking at the following concentrations in mistblowers :

'Perezin' — 6 oz in 2½ gallons of water per acre,

Nickel chloride — 4 oz in 5 gallons of water per acre.

'Perezin' can be used at the rate of 8 oz in 2½ gallons of water on tea recovering from pruning, but nickel chloride is not recommended for such tea, or for nurseries, either in mistblowers or knapsacks. Zinc sulphate spraying can be omitted in fields sprayed with 'Perezin'. Prospective users of nickel chloride are warned that if the spraying is not carefully supervised, scorching of the leaves can result. Users of 'Perezin' are advised to make periodic observations on the extent of symptoms of zinc deficiency (see Tolhurst 1962). The Institute will be pleased if estates would keep us informed of their progress.

## References

De Silva, R. L. (1965). Investigations with new fungicides for the control of Blister Blight (*Exobasidium vexans* Massee) on tea. *Tea Quart.* **36** : 64-71.

Tolhurst, J. A. H. (1962). Zinc deficiency of tea in Ceylon. *Tea Quart.* **33** : 134-137.