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**STUDIES ON THE IDENTIFICATION OF  
LEAF MINERS AND THEIR HOST RANGE AT  
VANTHARUMOOLAI**

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## ABSTRACT

A Study on species identification of Leaf miner was conducted in the Biology Laboratory, Department of Agronomy of Eastern University of Sri Lanka. In addition the Host range and Damage level of the leaf miner species were studied.

Leaf miners were collected from host plants such as Brinjal (*Solanum melongena*) Tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*), Cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*), Green gram (*Vigna radiata*), Bushitao (Vegetable cowpea) (*Vigna unguiculata*) and Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) grown in the Agronomy farm of Eastern University with the help of Sticky traps, Sweeping net, Polythene bag and reared the live insects. Measurements and observation were made with the help of light microscope fixed with vernier. Lengths of Head, Antenna, Thorax, Wings, Legs, Abdomen and their special features were considered as the key parameters. The results showed that *Liriomyza sativa* was the predominant species in the Vantharumoolai area and also small population of *Liriomyza trifolii* was present in this area.

A study on host range was carried out using Brinjal, Bushitao and Okra plants. It was found that *Liriomyza sativa* preferred Brinjal plant followed by Okra and Bushitao.

Extent of damage caused by leaf miners was also studied with the host of Brinjal, Tomato and Bushitao. It was found that the damage by *Liriomyza sativa* to Brinjal was higher (10.16%) than the Tomato and Bushitao.

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