

1. Introduction

A serious disease of maize (Zea Mais Linn.) was first noticed on the Imperial College farm and elsewhere in Trinidad in 1929. Since then it has occasioned serious losses, especially during the past year in which the average yield of the maize crops on the College farm planted in December 1932 has been reduced by over 1000 lbs per acre.

Maize is not an important crop in Trinidad, and with the exception of the College farm is only grown in small patches. It is more than probable that the disease existed in the island before 1929, but was overlooked until it attacked the comparatively extensive maize cultivations at the College.

The disease has been under investigation at the College since 1929 in which year it was first described for Trinidad by Larter and Russell (1). They described the symptoms of the disease but came to no definite conclusion as to it's nature. The disease has been the subject of further investigation during the past year.