

## INTRODUCTION

Weed control in the tropics has made considerable progress since the advent of hormonal herbicides. However, some specific weeds present particular problems which cannot be overcome by the usual methods of herbicidal treatment.

The pan-tropical nut grass (Cyperus rotundus L.) is one weed which has proved extremely difficult to control, much less eradicate, and this being so a detailed study of this weed is in progress in order to build up a better understanding of the species under Trinidad conditions. Work has been carried out on the competitive effect of nut grass, its seriousness as a weed in the field and possible methods of control.

The purpose of the work reported here was threefold.

1. To determine to what extent nut grass reduces crop yield in groundnuts.
2. To study the effect of the growth habit of the crop plant upon the weed.
3. To determine what influence the nutrient status of the soil may exert upon the competitive effect of the nut grass.

Further studies are also to be carried out on the growth habit of nut grass which it is hoped will make possible a method of control to be suggested.