

NEEM AND ITS PESTICIDAL CHARACTERISTICS

K. K. SINGH* AND GAYATRI VERMA**

The versatile Neem tree is a wonder. The compounds extracted from different parts of the neem plant belong to general class of natural products called 'triterpenes' more specifically 'Limonoids'. So far, at least nine limonoids have demonstrated the insecticidal properties but azadirachtin, salanin, meliantriol and nimbin are the best known and most significant. These have made the plant a harmless and useful insecticide, bactericide, fungicide and pesticide.