

ITI Scientists Develop a Mosquito Repellent Cream for Personal Protection

ITI has obtained the patent rights, and the ensuing royalty payments for a mosquito repellent cream developed by Dr. Radhika Samarasekera, a Senior Research Officer at the Herbal Technology Division. This mosquito repellent cream is based on plant derived chemicals which have very low or no adverse effect on the users.



This product and the production process had been long experimented upon by the researcher. As the first step, the active ingredients were identified from a series of essential oils from local plants. The functional groups of these active components were then changed to enhance their effect.

The change of the functional groups of the active

compounds displayed an array of different types of effects on mosquitoes. Some compounds were found to be having a knock-down effect while others killed or repelled the mosquitoes. The research project was mainly aimed at three vector mosquitoes of dengue, chickengunya, filaria and malaria. The first two are

rampant even at present in the country. This work was funded by the National Science Foundation.

The oils, active compounds and the active compounds with changed functional groups were formulated into coils, creams, lotions etc. and their efficacy was tested under natural conditions. Some of the formulations were found to be highly effective.

Further developmental work was carried out with the successful formulations.

The technology was transferred on the basis of 1% royalty



for five years to a client, who now supplies the mosquito repellent cream developed by Dr. Samarasekera, to the local and foreign markets. This mosquito repellent cream is now used by the Sri Lanka and Bangladesh armed forces and available in the Maldivian market.

This will be released to the local market once the green light from the Pesticide Registrar is obtained.

In order to ensure the continued authenticity of the product, the producer is bound to adhere to the specified quality standard set by the ITI and random samples taken from the market are checked for its quality.

Courtesy ITI



Wedding in Aruba

Kala Somerville and Rajiva Seneviratne of Charlottesville, Virginia, USA, were married on June 17th, 2008 in the southern Caribbean island of Aruba amidst a gathering of family and friends. The signing ceremony, held at the stately Civil House, was presided over by C. (Betto) Christiaans, the Registrar of the hundred and ninety three square kilometre island, a self governing Constituent Country of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Dorothy Somerville and H.L.Seneviratne were the attesting witnesses. In the evening, a wedding ceremony that blended formality with joyful levity was held on the western beach of the island, with the sunset in the background, and the principals and the participants all barefoot on the sand. Randall Somerville gave away the bride. Five year old Addison Ford was the flower girl and seven year old Garrett Ford the page.



Fergie
Fergie got off on the right foot when she unveiled her new footwear collection at the Las Vegas Convention Center. The glamour girl is the latest celebrity to team up with the Brown Shoe company to design a line of footwear—guitar legend Carlos Santana and country crooner Reba McEntire have also lent their boldface names to shoe collections.



PHONE A FRIEND
Carrie Underwood tops off a phone call with a big grin while out Thursday in Beverly Hills. The singer lunched at Il Fornaio – and followed her meal



GOODIES TO GO
Mom-to-be Ashlee Simpson-Wentz satisfies her pregnancy cravings while stopping off with husband Pete Wentz Friday at an L.A. donut shop.



MILEY'S GOOD DEED
Miley Cyrus helps kick off an ASPCA fund-raiser, "Bolt Across America," in Central Park on Friday. The event is tied to her new animated movie, Bolt, due out in the fall.



GIRLS IN 'PANTS'
Blake Lively, Alexis Bledel, America Ferrera (in dresses!) and Amber Tamblyn (in a navy jumpsuit) gather in the spirit of sisterhood – and to premiere their movie, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2*, Monday at New York's Ziegfeld Theatre.



Katy Perry
Katy Perry (in Mandate of Heaven) took a break from the Warped Tour to help Gym Class Heroes frontman Travis McCoy celebrate his birthday with a bash at New York City's latest nightclub, Country Club. While music's new It girl took the night off from singing, revelers were treated to an impromptu performance by MTV reality stars Cisco Adler and Shwayze.



Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen
The uber-stylish sisters are the best models for their own designs. "It's our name, and we wouldn't compromise that," Mary-Kate told USA Today. "We don't want things that don't represent us and what we can do."

Stars Wearing Stars
Christina Ricci in *The Row*. Ricci brought some va-va-va-voom to Japan in a slinky green dress from *The Row*, designed by Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. The line of luxury basics has also been worn by Gwyneth Paltrow, Katie Holmes and Ellen Pompeo.