

Chem. Mikrobiol. Technol. Lebensm. 13, 89-94 (1991)

ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN DIFFERENT GRADES OF SRI LANKA TEA.

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Received September 21, 1990

Key words: Sri Lanka, Grades of Tea, Organochlorine, PCB, Pesticide Residues

Summary: 30 samples of 3 different grades of Sri Lanka teas classified on the basis of altitudes on which they grow, were analyzed for organochlorine pesticides and PCB residues. Marked variations in pesticide contents among the 3 grades were observed. The up-country teas were the most polluted (total DDT 580, cyclodienes 390, lindan 40 $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ of tea) whereas the mid-country teas were the least polluted (total DDT and lindan below limits of detection, cyclodienes 50 $\mu\text{g kg}^{-1}$ of tea). Possible differences in plantation hygiene and factory processes in the 3 regions are suggested for the observed variations.