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CRC FINAL REPORT

CS16L - THE RESPONSE OF THE COTTON PLANT TO DAMAGE

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This project started in 1985/86 and continued in CS30L with the same title.

The aims of the project were:

- * to test various versions of SIRATAC on a commercial scale.
- * to provide a database of the response of cotton to damage.
- * to compare the response of the new varieties Siokra and DP90 with DP61.

Field work consisted of large scale trials on the leased Leitch block and small plot experiments using manual disbudding to simulated pest damage. The results of these trials were integrated with data from CS30L (The response of cotton crops to damage) and CS23L (Development Officers for SIRATAC) and made available to the industry at the Australian Cotton Conference (Brook et al 1986 and Kelly et al 1988). Further analysis of these results has shown that the capacity of the cotton crop to compensate for early season damage depends on the yield level. These findings have been published in a series of three papers in the Journal of Economic Entomology (Brook et al 1992, in press) and received rave reviews from the cotton entomology community.