Xlure-MST, the Multi-species pheromone trap for Monitoring major Stored Products Insects

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Introduction

Monitoring is the corner stone of all integrated pest management programmes. A combination of insect pheromone and food attractant can provide an effective monitoring tool for stored products insects. Though most of the insect's pheromone is species specific, several stored products insects share a common pheromone component. For example, (Z,E)-9,12-tetradecadien-1-ol acetate is the major component of sex pheromone of *Ephestia cautella*, *E. elutella*, *E. kuehniella*, *and Plodia interpunctella*.

As the food industry sourcing its components from various geographical locations the chance of incidental infestation by different insects is more likely to take place. Therefore, a multispecies trap is needed to monitor wide range of insect pests which is likely to attack any food stock of manufacturing facility at the same time. The main objective of the present study was to develop a single and simple detection tool to monitor multiple species of major stored products crawling insects *Tribolium*, *castaneum*, *Tribolium confusum*, *Lasioderma serricorne*, *Trogoderma granarium*, *Trogoderma variabile*, *Oryzaephilus mercator*, *Oryzaephilus surinamensis*, *Sitophilus granarius*, *Sitophilus oryzae* and *Stegobium paniceum*.

Materials and Methods

Tribolium castaneum and *Oryzaephilus surinamensis* was initially supplied by Detia Ltd. From these insects a colony was established and the insects held under the following condition. Both insect species were held in preserving jars with mesh under a 12 hours light – 12 hours dark light regime with temperatures of 25°C ±2°C and a relative humidity of 60%±10%.

In the present test 60 *T. castaneum* and *O. surinamensis* of mixed sex were place in a square plastic container sized 35X33 cm. A Xlure-MST trap was placed in the middle of the container. The number of insect in the trap was recorded in different intervals (e.g. 5, 10, 20, 30, 60, 120, 240, 390, 1200 and 1440 minutes). The test was repeated 6 times. Recordings were taken to show the capability of the insects to climb the slope of the trap.

A blend of synthetic pheromone components of 4,8-Dimethyldecanal, 14-methyl-Z-8-hexadecenal, 7-Hydroxy-4,6-dimethylnonan-3-one and food attractant (wheat germ oil and Carob volatiles) were released from two dispenser of the Xlure-MST trap.

Results

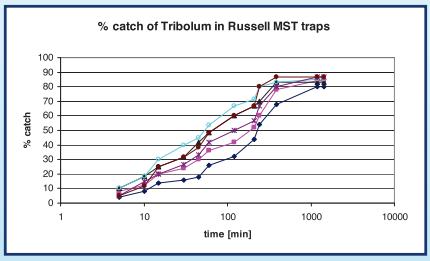

Fig.1 *Percent catches of Tribolium castaneum in Xlure-MST trap.*

In a laboratory bioassay, the efficacy of the Xlure-MST trap was evaluated against *T. castaneum*. The results indicated that Xlure-MST is attractive to *T. castaneum*, with a mean catch efficacy of more than 80% after 24 hours (see Figure 1). It also showed that once the beetles are caught in the trap they are unable to escape from it again. The slope of the trap does not present an obstacle to the ease of entry by the beetles into it.

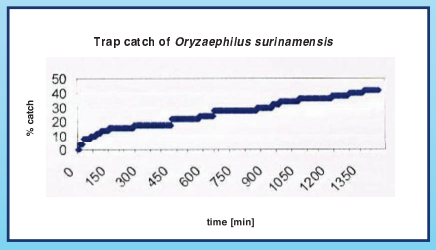

Fig.2 *Percent catches of Oryzaephilus surinamensis in Xlure-MST trap.*

In a laboratory bioassay, the efficacy of the Xlure-MST trap was evaluated against *O. surinamensis*. The results indicated that Xlure-MST is attractive to *O. surinamensis* and it found that 42% of the *O. surinamensis* were caught 24 hours after release the beetle *O. surinamensis* (see Figure 2).

Discussion

Three pheromone components and two food attractant mixture containing trap Xlure-MST can be successfully used to monitor *T. castaneum, O. surinamensis* and other stored product crawling insects. It is one cost effective trap for ten different insects and this trap can be used as one uniform monitoring tool in all stages of the production, transit and storage which will help asses and pin point the point of pest infestation in the food chain.