E2-06: Use of 4-methyl-5-nonanol (ferruginol) as a field attractant for the coconut pest, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* F. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

N E Gunawardena
(Dept of Chemistry, Univ of Kelaniya)

The role of traps dated with natural attractants of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* F. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), was investigated as means of reducing adult weevil population.

The following natural attractants/attractant combinations were selected for the preliminary field assay (Gampaha and Kurunegala districts): pentanol, propanol, ferruginol and a 1:1 (v/v) mixture of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxystyrene and γ-nonanoic lactone. These potent attractants were dispensed at a release rate of 500 - 400μg/trap/day from capillaries suspended inside bucket traps, 30 m apart, hung on coconut palms at 6 ft. height in a randomized block design. The ferruginol baited traps caught weevil with an average trap catch (n = 6) of 0.23 weevil/trap/day. The trap baited with 4-hydroxy-3-methoxystyrene and γ-nonanoic lactone also attracted weevils at a low mean trap catch of 0.013/trap/day. The male trap catch was not significantly different ($P > 0.05$, Student's t-test) from that of the female. The response profile of the red weevil with time indicated an irregular trap catch and a long life time of the bait. The time dependent response of the weevils indicated that they were attracted to the traps only between 18:00-19:00 and 6:00-7:00 h of the day.

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