

## USE OF MATING DISRUPTION IN *ZEUZERA PYRINA* CONTROL

PATANITA, M.I. & VARGAS, E.

Escola Superior Agrária de Beja, Depto. de Ciências do Ambiente, Apartado 6158, 7801-908 Beja (Portugal) E-mail: ipatanita@esab.ipbeja.pt  
Universidad de Córdoba, Depto. de Ciencias y Recursos Agrícolas y Forestales, Campus Rabanales, Edificio "Celestino Mutis" Crtra. de Madrid, Km 396, 14071 Córdoba (Spain)

### Abstract

The sexual pheromone of *Zeuzera pyrina* is known and is available to several suppliers, mating disruption can be a good alternative for its control. The mating disruption for the control of this species began in the 90's and the investigation of this method continued during this decade. The latest results demonstrate the success of this method.

The experiment was carried at Monte da Raposinha next to the city of Beja (southern of Portugal) from 2002 until 2004. The area treated with mating disruption had 10,5 ha and the control had 2 ha.

During the three years of trial, the number of larvae and pupae in thick branches and trunks was lower, near 98%, when compared with the control. The percentage of trees occupied by larval galleries was also significantly reduced in the plot tried in comparison with the control.

In regards to the percentage of damaged trees a decrease of 97% (3,53% to 0,09%) was obtained in the thick branches in the treated plot, compared with an increment of 70% (6,08 to 19,95%) in the control.

The results obtained suggest that the mating disruption can, in fact, reduce the damage of *Z. pyrina* and lower the larval density in thick branches and in young shoots, which leads to the conclusion that the mating disruption method is highly effective, at the populational levels of the present study.