

Mating disruption of codling moth in pome fruit orchards of Oeste region in Portugal

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2 – Unirocha, EN 366 Km 4, 2550-452 Cadaval

3-Frubaça, Apartado 277, 2460-997 Alcobaça

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The codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*) is a key-pest of pome fruit agroecosystem in Portugal. Its control is usually based on several insecticide sprays per year.

Recently, mating-disruption has been essayed in small areas, in IPM programs, to manage codling moth populations showing quite promising results.

A dissemination project began in 2002 (PO AGRO DE&D n° 30) in order to promote mating-disruption as an area wide management tactic for codling moth control, involving 180 ha of pome fruit orchards in three major areas of crop production (Alcobaça, Cadaval, Mafra). This project aims to show the effectiveness of mating-disruption for the management of codling moth populations the control of *C. pomonella* and to evaluate the potential benefits of this tactic in preventing secondary-pest outbreaks, preserve natural enemies and reduce pesticide residues on fruits.

The results obtained in 2002 will be presented and discussed. The economic assessment of this method was evaluated considering the costs of mating-disruption, as well as its benefits.