

Pheromones for codling moth control and population monitoring in Syria

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Syria has a large apple production due to suitable climatic conditions. The current apple acreage is about 50,000 ha and the codling moth, *Cydia pomonella* (L.), is the key pest on this crop in Syria. Chemical control of this pest has many drawbacks including insecticide resistance, disruption of beneficial species and environmental contamination. Pheromones can play a major role in reducing pesticide use against this pest through monitoring and spray timing. It can also be used for a direct control of this pest through mating disruption, lure and kill strategies and disseminating natural enemies (pathogens).

The use of pheromones for codling moth monitoring and spray timing in Syria started in the early 90's of the last century. Within few years, the role of pheromone traps for codling moth population monitoring and spray timing was well realised. The number of farmers using pheromone traps for spray timing against this pest increased tens of times in the last few years. This resulted in more than 50% reduction in the number of chemical sprays for controlling this pest. In 1999, the 1st mating disruption trial for codling moth control in Syria started over 20 ha of apple orchards and the area was increased in the year 2000 to 32 ha. In the year 2001, a lure and kill trial started on an orchard of 2 ha. The results were very promising and the trial is repeated on 14 hectares this year (2002).

Results of one decade of codling moth monitoring and spray timing using pheromone traps will be reported, data on codling moth control by mating disruption will be briefly reviewed and two years data on lure and kill strategy for controlling this pest will also be presented and results will be discussed.