Poster

A PHEROMONE-BASED MANAGEMENT METHOD FOR POTATO TUBER MOTH (*PHTHORIMAEA OPERCULELLA*)

M.M. NUGALIYADDE [1], CHARLIE BENDER [2], E.P. WIJEWARDENA [1], H.M. BANDARA [3], P.K. SUDESH MADUSANKA [3], S.W. GARUSINGHE [4] AND L. NUGALIYADDE [5]

[1] *Agriculture Research Station (ARS), Sita Eliya, Sri Lanka*
[2] *Insect Science (Pty) Ltd, 9 Industrial Street, Tzaneen 0850, South Africa*
[3] *CIC Crop Solutions, 199 Kew Road, Colombo 2, Sri Lanka*
[4] *Temporary Research Assistant, ARS, Seta Eliya, Sri Lanka*
[5] *Former Entomologist RRDI Batalagoda, Sri Lanka*

ABSTRACT

Potato Tuber Moth, (PTM) caused by *Phthorimaea operculella*, is considered as one of the major constraints to potato production in Sri Lanka. At vegetative stage of the crop the larvae mine leaves, stems, and petioles. At tuber formation, the moths lay eggs on exposed tubers and the caterpillars excavate tunnels in tubers. The adults emerging from the infested tubers will infest the tubers inside stores. Efforts were made to test a pheromone-based management method that includes two components: a monitoring system for male moths and male annihilation method that can be integrated with other environment friendly techniques for the management of PTM. The yellow-delta traps containing phero-lure found to be effective in attracting male moths. The male annihilation was done by field application of Pheromone-based bait (LAST CALL®) that contains 5% permethrin and PTM female pheromone impregnated into a rain-fast black-coloured waxy base on leaves at 3,000 drops/ha. It was observed that the male moth population reduced after the field application of Last Call. The preliminary observations suggest that PTM can be controlled using the Phero-Lure Delta Traps as monitoring tool and Last Call as bait for the annihilation of male moths.