SYMPOSIUM: USE OF PHEROMONES IN TROPICAL CROPS

PREFACE

Insect sex pheromones—They have been hyped and sold by researchers and industry alike as some type of magic elixer to solve the major insect pest control problems of the developed world. The approaches have been imaginative and bold, ranging from spraying the pheromone into the atmosphere to prevent mating, to using traps baited with these potent attractants to decide how to apply pesticide treatments. Many of our colleagues in the less developed areas of the world "have heard the word" and wish to participate in this new pest control phenomenon. Unfortunately, most lack the resources, facilities, and often the skills to develop pheromones for their own use. Frequently, the insects involved are different species, and to develop pheromones to the state-of-the-art uses that now exist for many pest species in North America, Europe, and elsewhere would be an insurmountable task even under the best of circumstances. Therefore, a symposium on the Use of Pheromones in Tropical Crops was held at the 1985 Florida Entomological Society meeting held jointly with our entomological colleagues from the Caribbean Basin and Central and South America, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, August 5-8. The purpose of the symposium was to demonstrate the usefulness of pheromones in insect pest management projects and to encourage pest managers and entomologists interested in using pheromones in their programs to use the expertise and supplies available to them through research reports and industry, primarily from the United States. Development of such liaisons would allow almost instantaneous transfer of a form of "high technology" to areas which necessarily must still rely on low-level technology to meet the socio-economic needs in their own agarian lifestyles.

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