

O.39 - Sex pheromone traps for monitoring wireworm populations: how effective are they?

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Sex pheromone traps have been developed to trap the adult males of the three main UK wireworm pest species. Recommendations have been issued for their use with an emphasis on monitoring populations in grass the year before potatoes are planted. There are three assumptions underlying this method; that annual wireworm cohorts are of equal size; that adult male distributions relate to larval distributions; and that activity/density relationships are similar for the three species. Data are presented to challenge each of these assumptions and it is concluded that current advisory recommendations lack scientific credibility.