

P.11 - A molecular tool to investigate the occurrence of *Agriotes* click beetles and wireworms

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Wireworms are the polyphagous, soil inhabiting larvae of click beetles and are worldwide agricultural pests. Although traditionally associated with long-term grassland they are becoming an increasing problem in all-arable rotations, causing losses in crop quality and/or yield. Larvae of the genus *Agriotes* are well-known pests, but are morphologically cryptic so it has not been possible so far to determine the distribution and abundance of adults in relation to larvae for separate species. This has hindered studies on *Agriotes* ecology, having implications for the development of control strategies. Using a novel terminal restriction fragment length polymorphism (T-RFLP) technique, three species of wireworm commonly found in the UK: *Agriotes sputator*, *A. lineatus* and *A. obscurus* were identified. Here, we present the results of these identifications and compare them to adult males caught using pheromone traps from the same area. Interestingly no *A. lineatus* larvae were found in any of the processed samples. Implications of these findings are discussed and details of planned future work outlined.