

STATUS OF SEMIOCHEMICALS RESEARCH IN MEALY BUG (HEMIPTERA: PSEUDOCOCCIDAE) MANAGEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Mealy bugs as invasive insects are well known as pest of a number of agricultural and horticultural crops in all tropical and subtropical regions of world. In order to check damage by mealy bugs, the farmers have become dependent on using organophosphates and synthetic pyrethroids. Due to wide host range and wax coated bodies, the mealy bugs are hard to control by insecticides. The injudicious use of insecticides has caused negative impact on naturally occurring biological agents like predators and parasitoids. Excessive use of chemicals, environmental pollution and health hazards have motivated researchers to work on development of alternatives to pesticides. The semiochemicals comprise of pheromones and kairomones. Use of semiochemicals is one such approach as they are safer and effectively used through monitoring, mass trapping, mating disruption and increasing parasitization. Hence, the paper is focused on the semiochemicals identified, synthesized and used against ten selected mealy bugs of family Pseudococcidae.

KEYWORDS: Pheromone, Kairomone, Semiochemical, Pseudococcidae, Parasitization, Biological Agent

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