



Cactoblastis cactorum



hembra



macho



Juan Cibrián Tovar

Opuntia dillenii





Cactus pear deserves a place on the menu

Turning a useful food-of-last-resort into a managed and valuable crop





BRAZIL

Pernambuco

ANDDES

PARAGUAY

URUGUAY

ARGENTINA

- *Cactoblastis cactorum*
- Lepidoptera: Pyralidae, Phycitinae
- Pyralidae - 20 géneros y 60 especies asociadas con Cactáceas
- *Ozamia* en los dos hemisferios
- *Cactoblastis* en Sud-América
- *Melitara* y *Olycella* en Norte

Cactoblastis cactorum



adulto



larva



A black and white photograph of a forest scene. In the center, a tree trunk is visible, with a small, light-colored rectangular label attached to it. The label has the handwritten text "C18" on it. The foreground and midground are filled with dense, leafy undergrowth, likely a species of shrub or small tree with broad, rounded leaves. The background shows a dense stand of taller trees, their trunks and branches creating a complex pattern of light and shadow. The overall lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting a shaded forest environment.

C18

- Género *Cactoblastis*
- 5 especies descritas
- *C. cactorum*, *C. bucyrus*, *C. mundelli*, *C. doddi* y *C. ronnai*
- Parte del Perú y Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Argentina y el sur de Brasil
- Larvas de todas las especies son rojas con bandas negras
- Solo *C. cactorum* es "oligofaga" (se alimenta de varias especies)



A black and white photograph of a tree trunk in a forest. A small, rectangular white label with the handwritten text 'C18' is attached to the trunk. The tree is surrounded by dense, low-lying vegetation with broad, rounded leaves. The background shows more trees and a dense canopy.

C18



C18





en Queensland, Australia



ASCENSION
ISLAND



Cactoblastis cactorum

15p

La hembra
produce de 3-4
palitos de
huevecillos
durante su vida





Hembras recién apareadas depositan sus huevecillos en las espinas y en los gloquidios localizados en las areolas. Las hembras se mantienen en cajas de acrílico y el nopal se introduce en la caja. Tifton, Georgia, Mayo 2010.

Colocación de huevecillos en los gloquidios del nopal

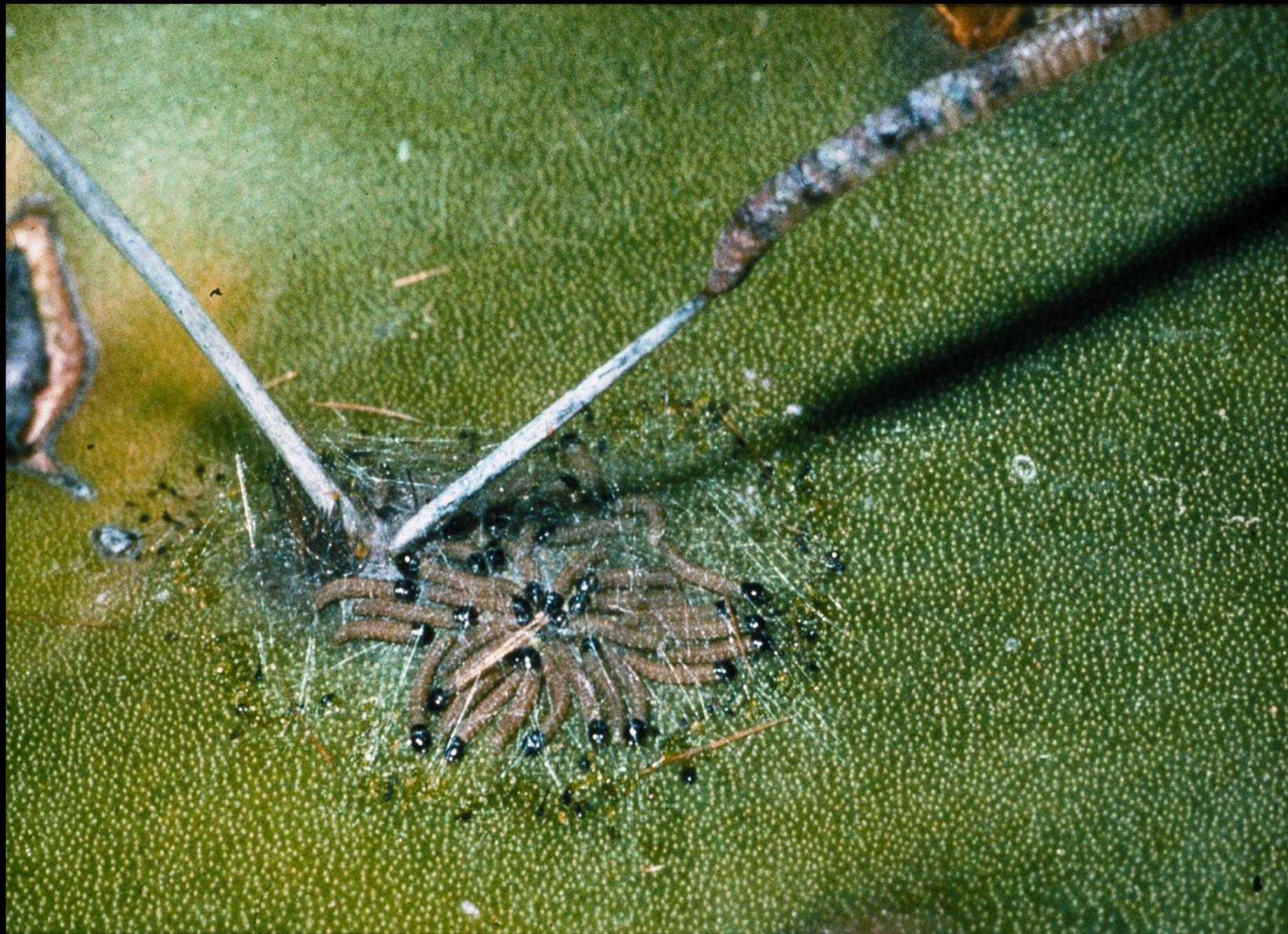


Detalle de la adherencia del primer huevecillo para que sostenga el resto de los mismos





Larvas de la palomilla cerca del palito de huevecillos. Tifton, Georgia 2010





Bandas negras transversales no fusionadas en medio



Olycella sp. larvae



Melitara prodenialis

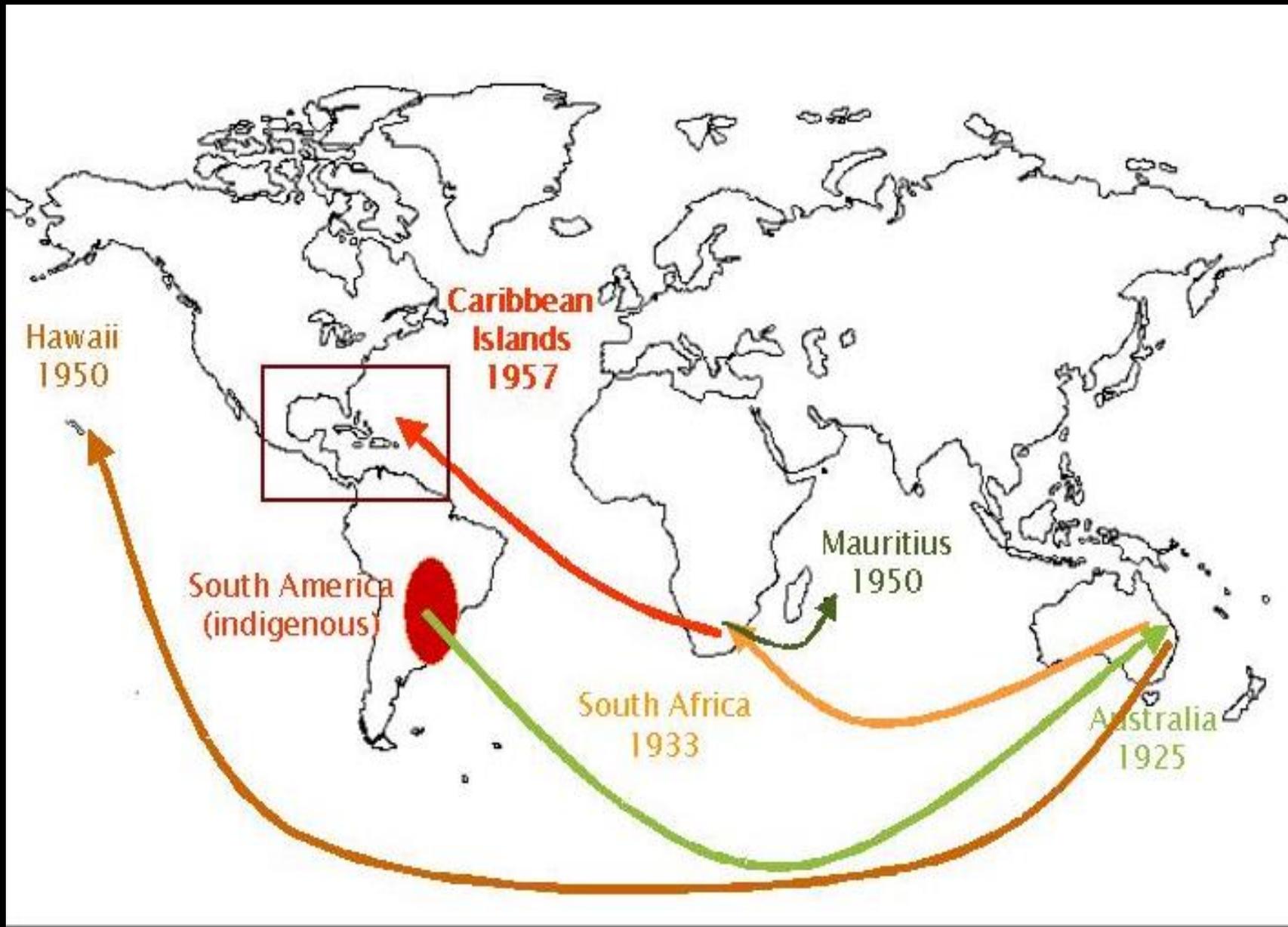


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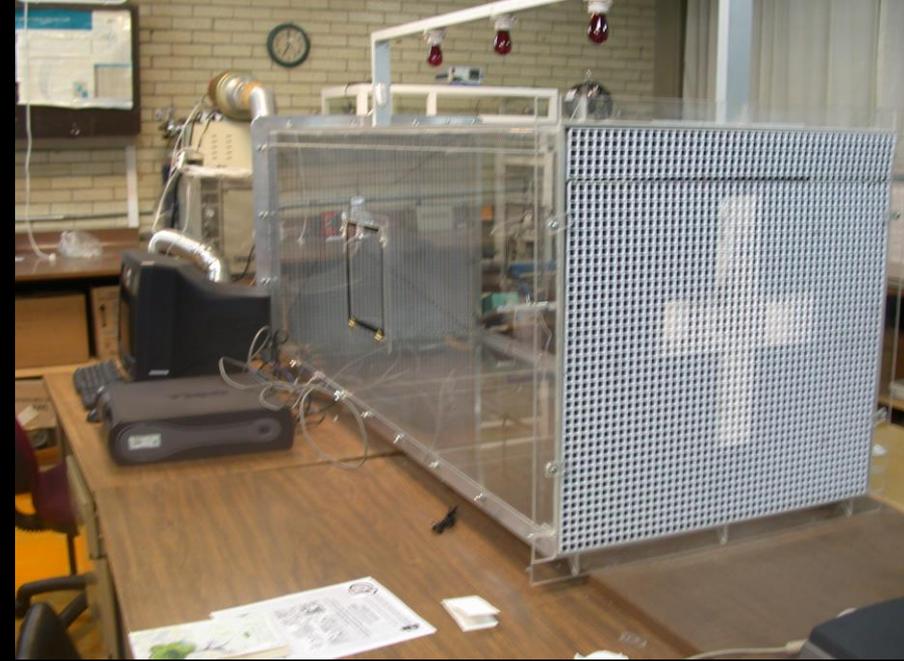
♂

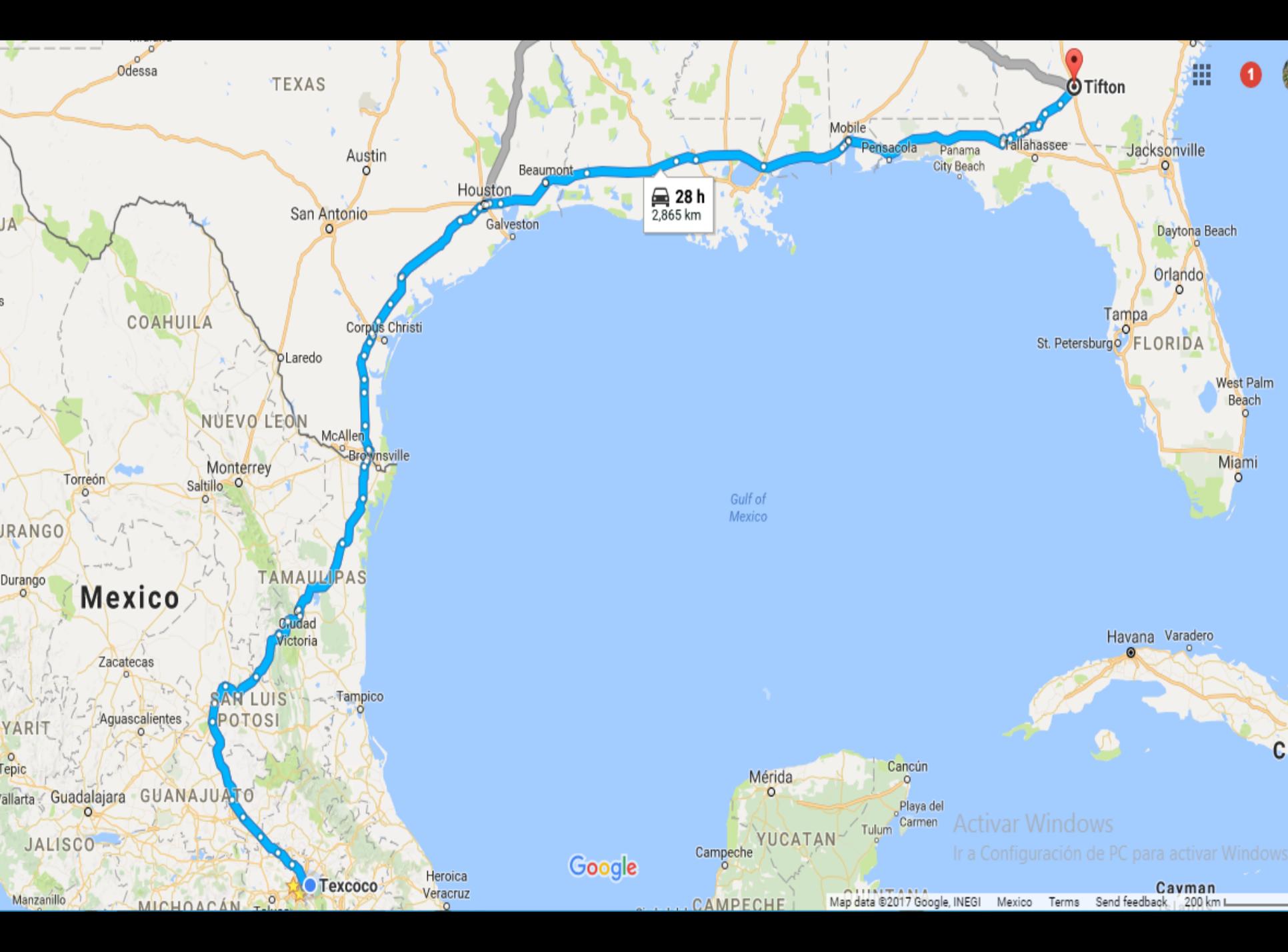






Se construyo el túnel de viento,
Luego se desarmo para
transportarse a Tifton, Georgia
El financiamiento provino de
SAGARPA-DGSV.





1

28 h
2,865 km

Activar Windows
Ir a Configuración de PC para activar Windows

Google

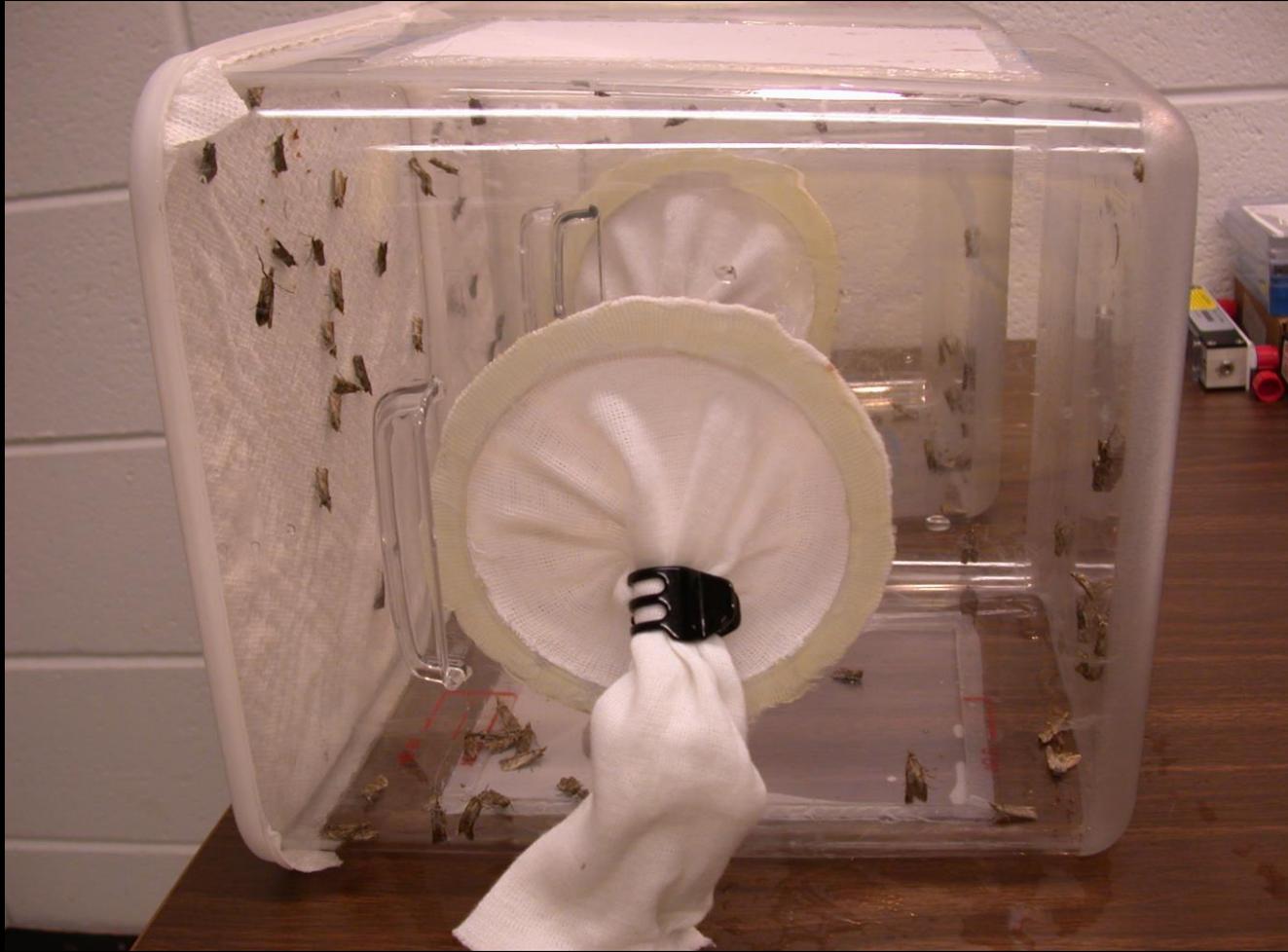


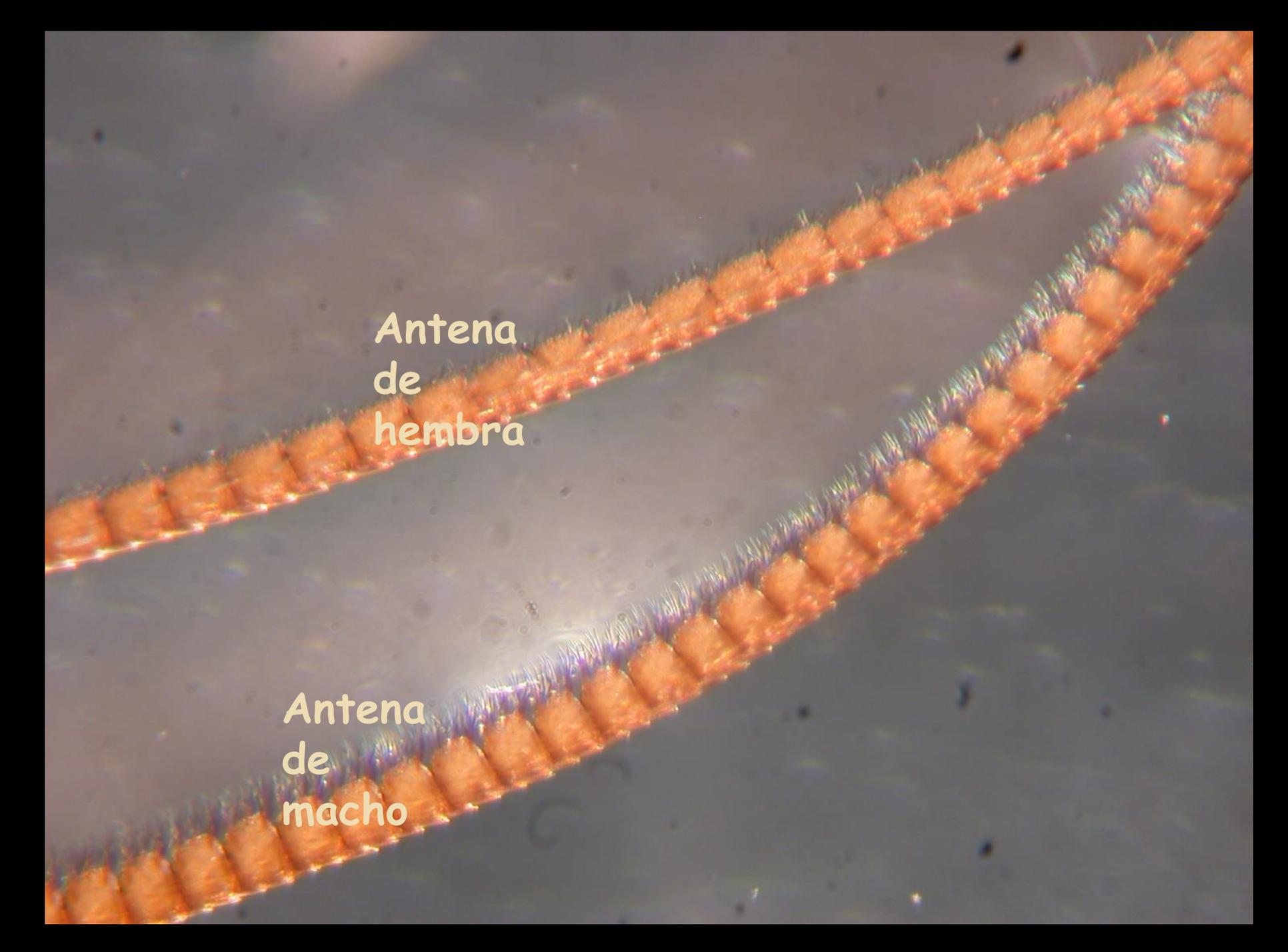
Tifton, Georgia 2010

2747 Davis Road

**CROP PROTECTION AND
MANAGEMENT RESEARCH LABORATORY
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

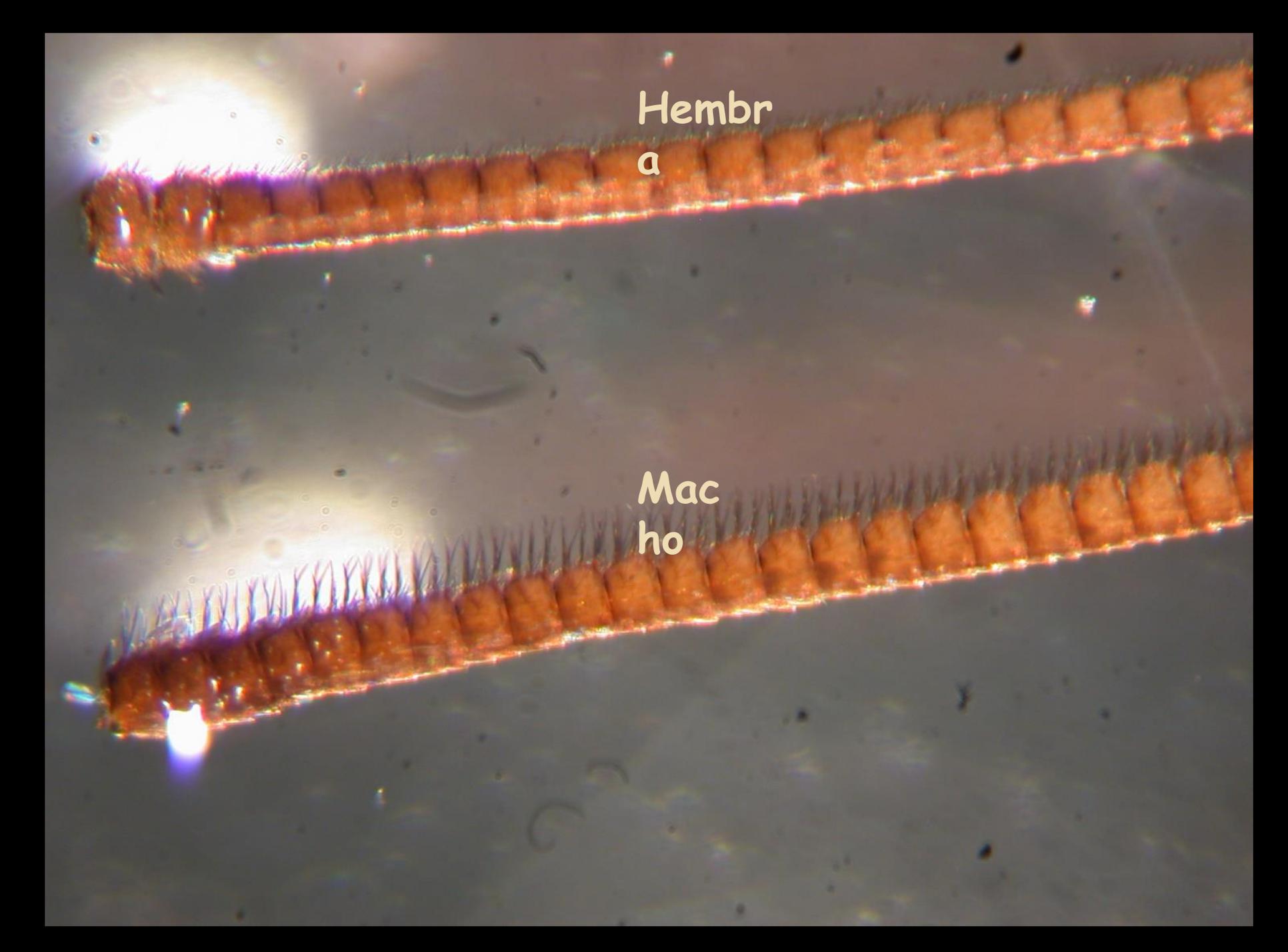




A microscopic image showing two insect antennae. The upper antenna is labeled 'Antena de hembra' and the lower one is labeled 'Antena de macho'. Both antennae are composed of a series of segments, each covered with fine, hair-like structures. The segments are a reddish-brown color, and the hairs are a darker, almost black color. The background is a light, slightly textured surface.

Antena
de
hembra

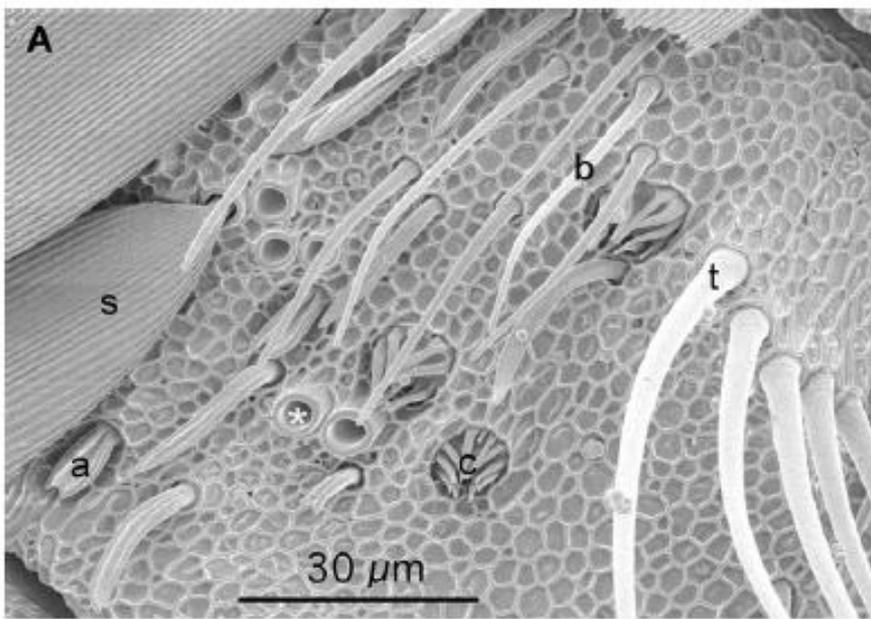
Antena
de
macho



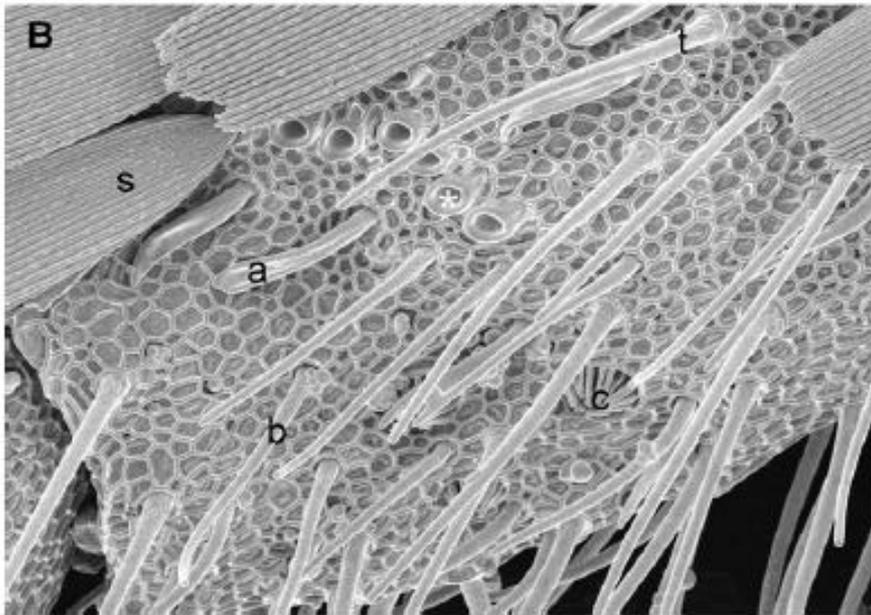
Hembra
a

This image shows two insect larvae, likely from the order Diptera, under a microscope. The larvae are segmented and covered in fine hairs. The top larva is labeled 'Hembra' (female) and the bottom one is labeled 'Macho' (male). The background is a light, slightly textured surface, possibly a slide or cover slip, with some small dark spots and a bright light source visible on the left side.

Macho



Detalle de antena de hembra de *C. cactorum*, note la menor cantidad de sensilas. *b*, basiconica; *t*, tricoidea



Detalle de antena de macho de *C. cactorum*, note la mayor cantidad de sensilas. *A*, auriculum; *b*, basiconica; *t*, tricoidea

Figure 1 Scanning electron micrographs of a male **(A)** and female **(B)** antenna of *Cactoblastis cactorum*. *a*, *s.* auricillicum; *b*, *s.* basiconicum; *c*, *s.* coeloconicum; *s*, scale (on dorsal part of antenna); *t*, *s.* trichodeum. Asterisk denotes base of removed scale

Cactoblastis cactorum
Hembra en la posición
de "llamado".



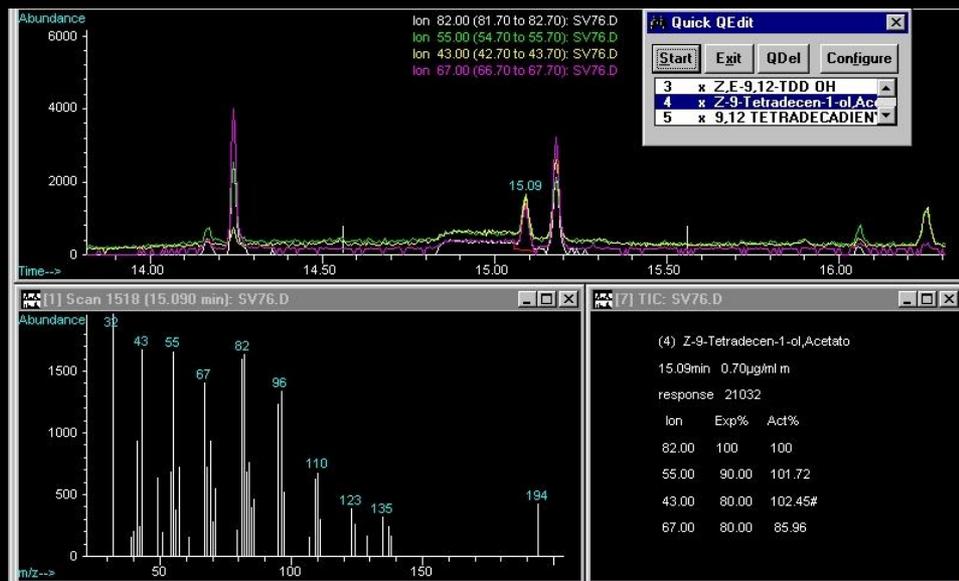
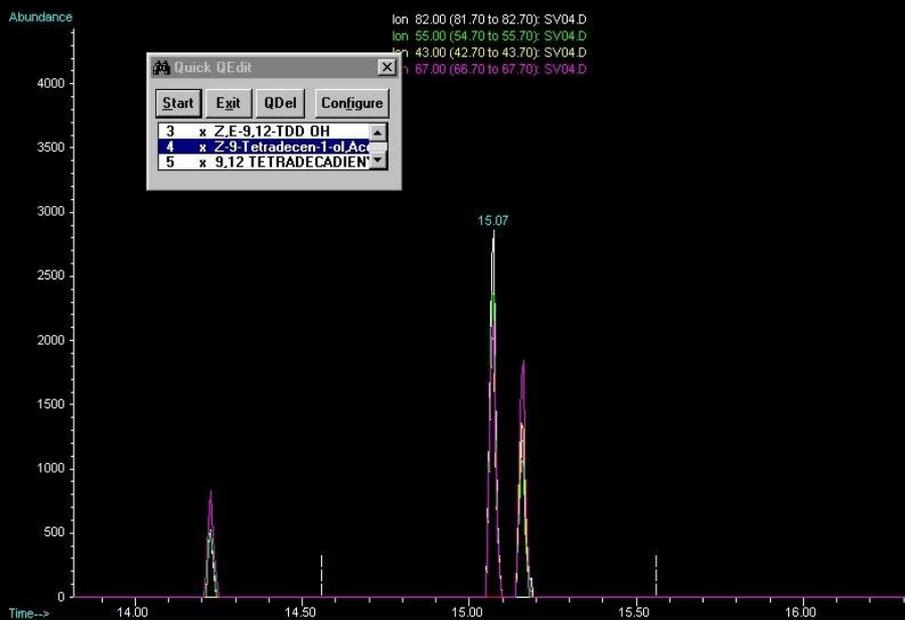
Glándula de feromona
sexual de la palomilla
del nopal.



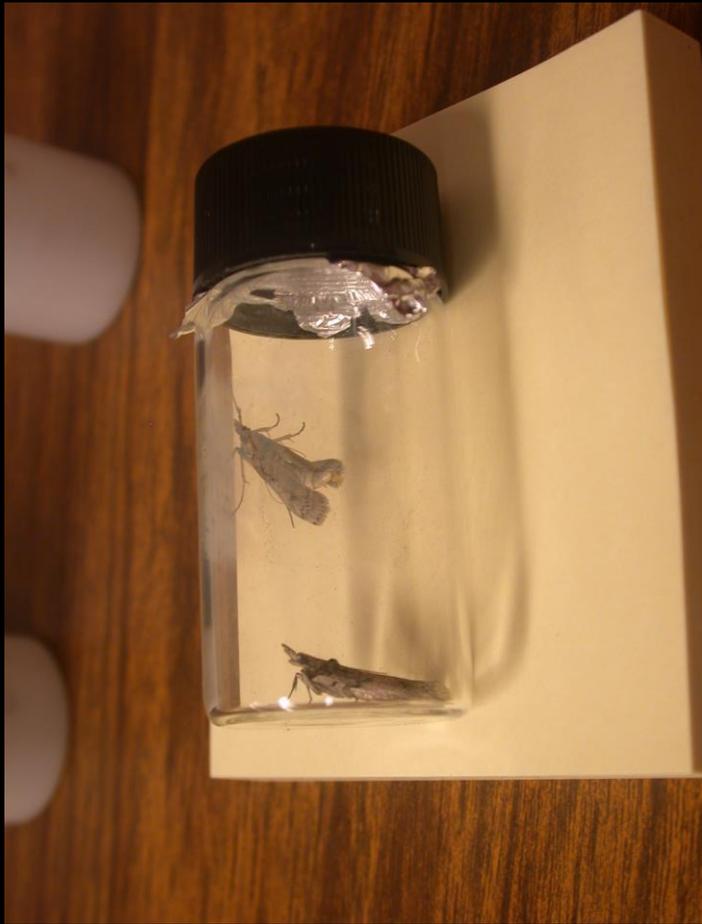
Glándulas productoras de feromona sexual en *Cactoblastis cactorum*



At the beginning we make extracts of the sexual gland pheromone. We cut the gland At 6:00 AM and put the gland in a one militer of hexane for one minute. We make around 500 female extracts. The chemical analysis was made In Dr. Potter lab (Southeast Watershed Research Laboratory, USDA) and my lab in Mexico.

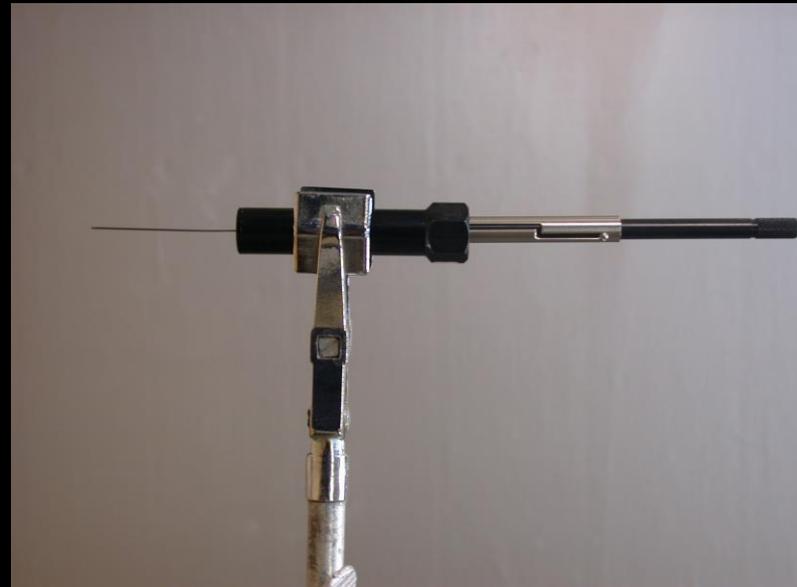


Analysis of the sample of April 27, integration of peak 3 with retention time 15.18 for the Z9, E12-tetradecadienyl acetate. For this sample we found a concentration of 0.97 mg / mL. Montecillo, Mexico, May 2010.



Collection of sexual pheromone volatiles from individual females. Tifton, Georgia, Spring 2010.

La glándula de feromona sexual fue cortada y frotada en la fibra de Microextracción en Fase Sólida.





El análisis químico de los extractos crudos fue hecho en Cromatografía de gas acoplado a espectrometría de masas en el laboratorio Southeast Watershed Research Laboratory, USDA, Marzo- Abril 2010.



The participation of Dr. Thomas Potter was invaluable for identifying additional compounds of the cactus moth sexual pheromone.



Robert Caldwell an excellent technician

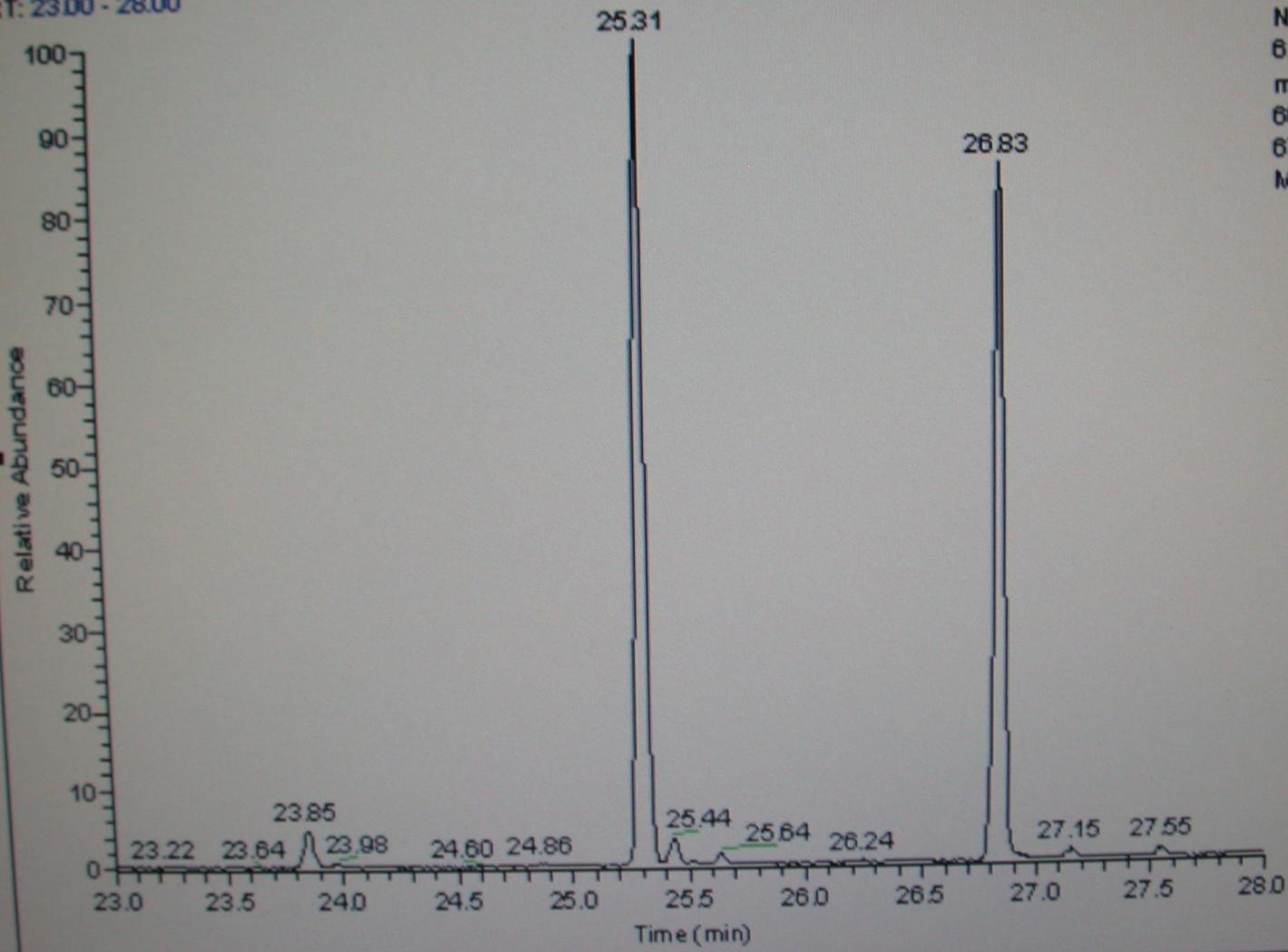


Volatile capture from one cactus moth female

Inyección de una sola glándula en el cromatografo de gas acoplado a espectometría de masas, Tifton, GA.



RT: 23.00 - 28.00



NL:
6.21E6
m/z=
66.50-
67.50 F:
MS cac04



Feromona sexual de la palomilla del nopal

En 2005 estaba trabajando con Bob Heath en el Subtropical Horticultural Research Station in Miami, Florida. Al final nosotros encontramos:

(Z,E)-9-12-tetradecadien-1-ol-acetate (54%)

(Z,E)-9-12-tetradecadien-1-ol (42%)

(Z)-9-tetradecen-1-ol-acetate (4%)

Cambios en la proporción de estos componentes tenían poco efecto en la eficacia del atrayente. Estos son compuestos comunes entre las especies de Pycitinae.

Hacia
Dauphin
Island





Inspección de capturas en Dauphin Island, Alabama, USA, 2010



Evaluando la feromona de la palomilla del nopal en Dauphin Island, Alabama, EUA



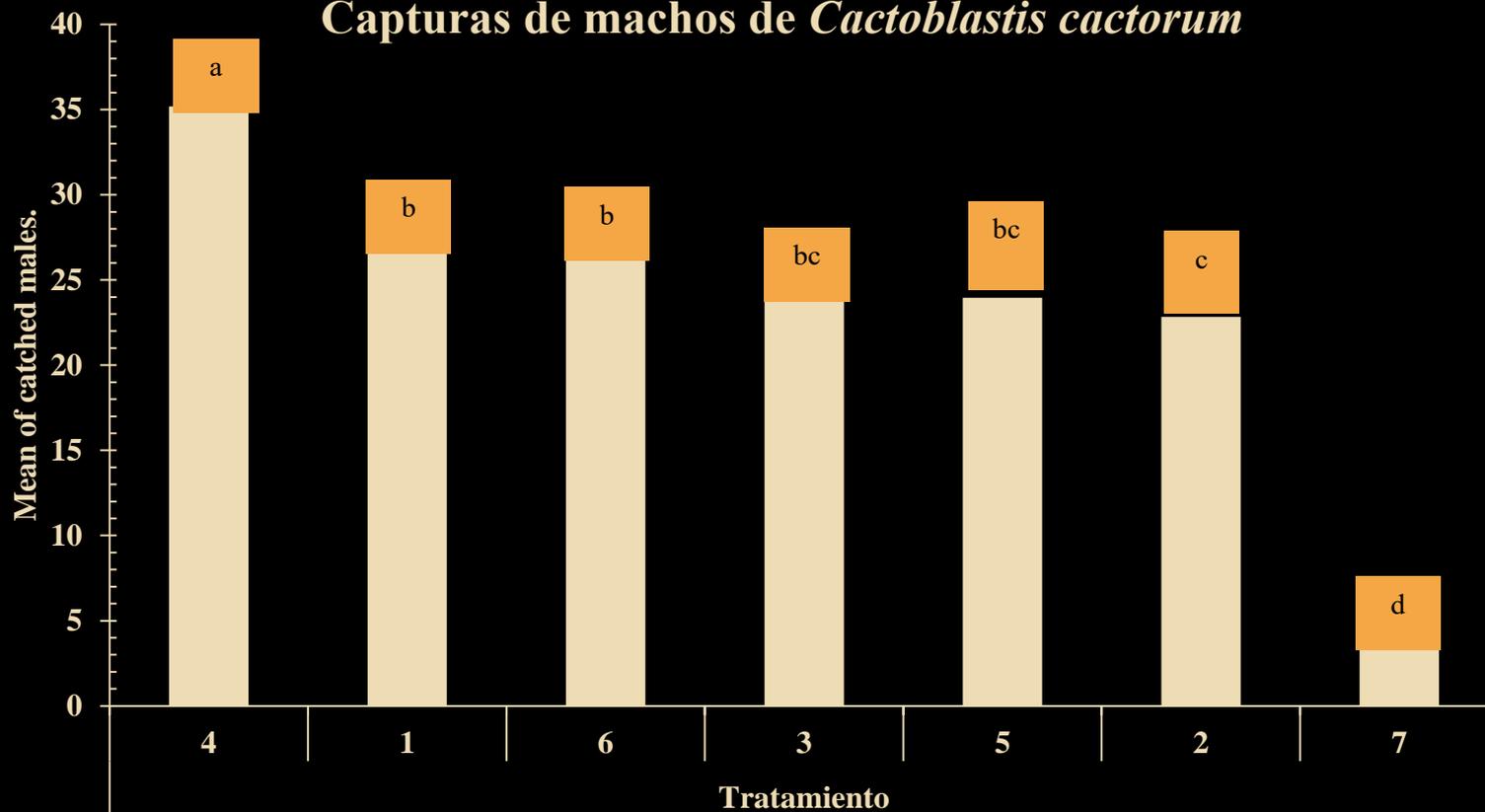


Dauphin Island, Alabama,
FLA

Actualmente se tienen tres sustancias para la detección de esta palomilla.

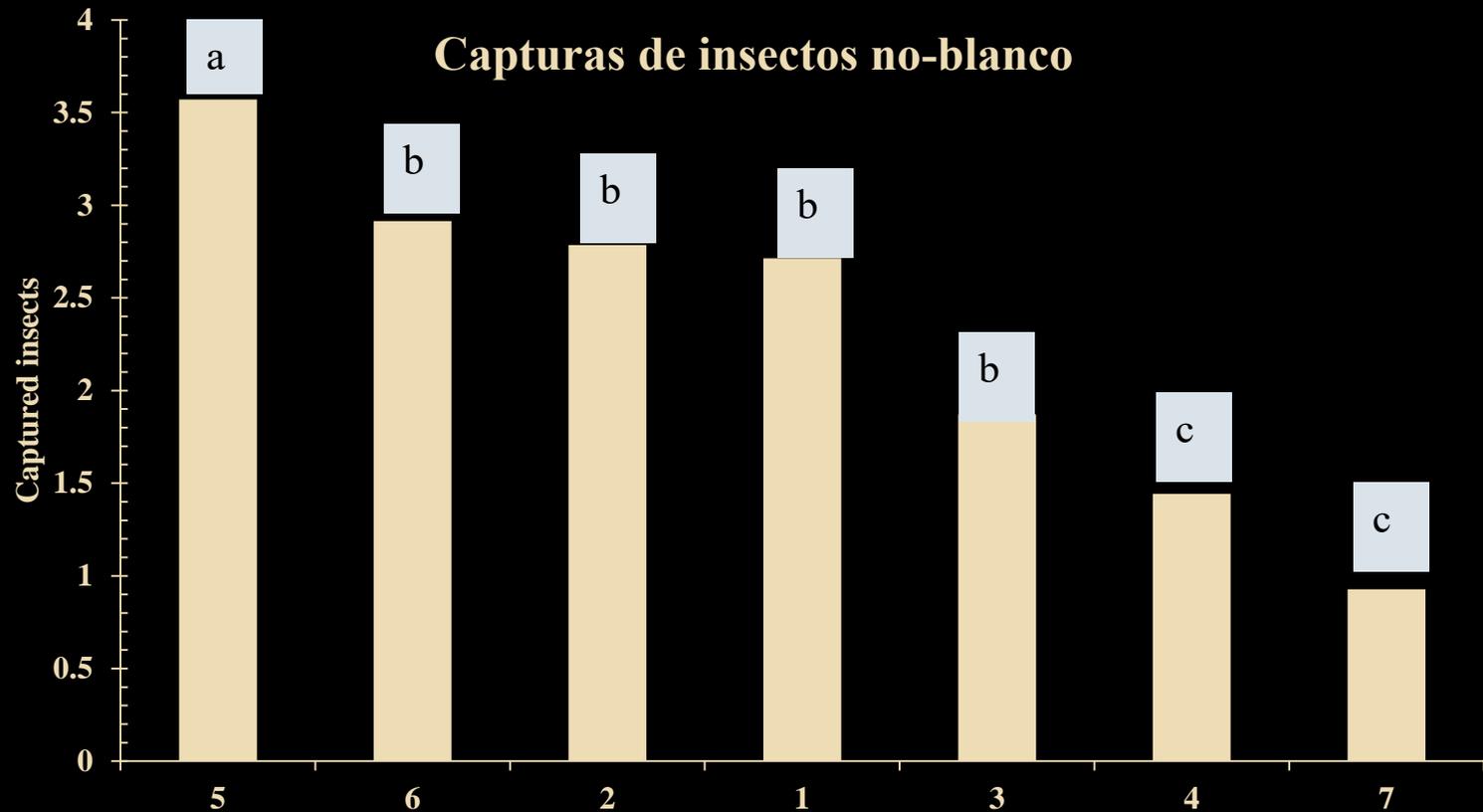


Capturas de machos de *Cactoblastis cactorum*



Compounds

Treat	ZE9-12-14-AC	ZE9-12-14-HO	Z-9-C-14-AC	Z-9-C-14-HO	Ac.Tetranoico	Nonanal.
T1=	56	41	4			
T2=	44	38	4	4	4	12
T3=	Commercial					
T4=	Virgin females (n=2).					
T5=	44	38	4	4	4	
T6=	38	44	4	4	4	
T7=	Control (empty trap).					



Treat.	Compounds					
	ZE9-12-14-AC	ZE9-12-14-HO	Z-9-C-14-AC	Z-9-C-14-HO	Ac.Tetranoico	Nonanal.
T1=	56	41	4			
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T3=	Commercial					
T4=	Virgin females (n=2).					
T5=	44	38	4	4	4	
T6=	38	44	4	4	4	
T7=	Control (empty trap).					

Tetranoico acid, Z9-14: OH and Z9-14: Ac addition increased catching non-target insects



La palomilla puede avanzar 160 km por año

Otros lepidópteros capturados en Florida, Georgia, Mississippi y Alabama in EUA, 2009. Stephen Highth.

- 1.) Beet Armyworm, *Spodoptera exigua* (Noctuidae)
- 2.) Dolichos Armyworm, *Spodoptera dolichos* (Noctuidae)
- 3.) Yellow-Collared Scape, *Cisseps fulvicollis* (Arctiidae)
- 4.) Lesser Cornstalk Borer, *Elasmopalpus lignosellus* (Pyralidae)
- 5.) Subterranean Dart, *Agrotis subterranea* (Noctuidae)
- 6.) Grass-veneer, *Crambus* spp. (probably *C. quinquareatus*) (Pyralidae/Crambidae)

En México al menos otras 6 especies

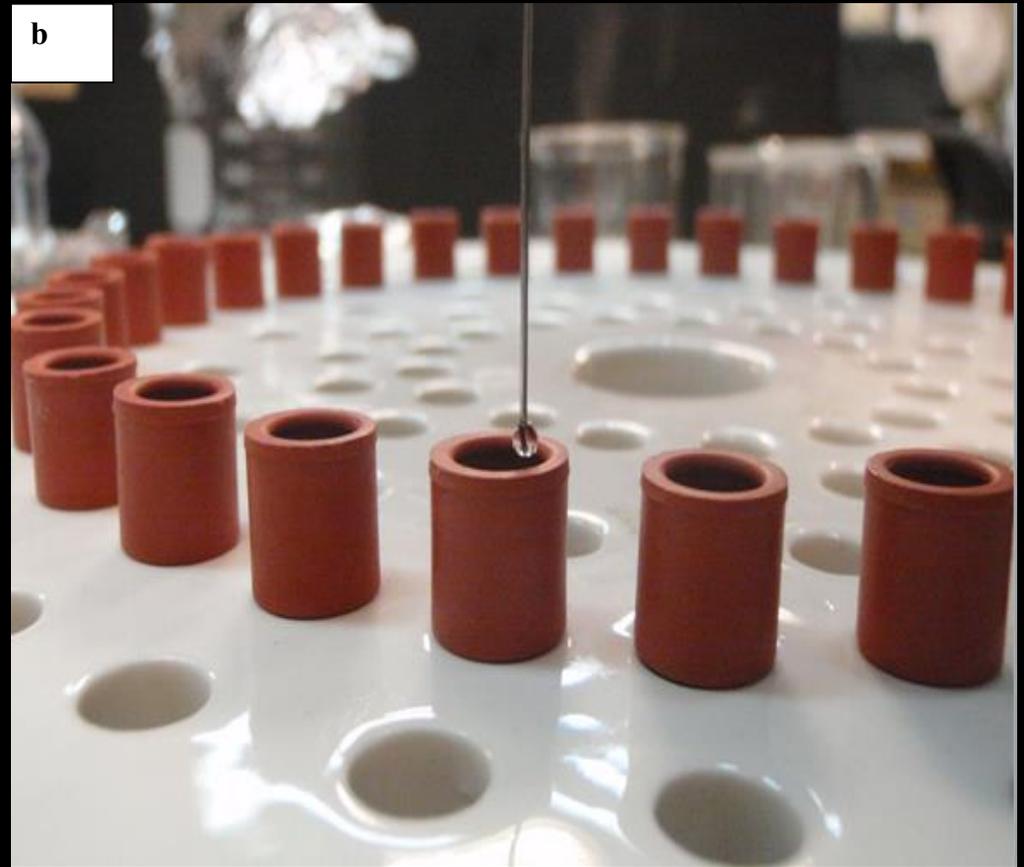
Cuadro 2. Composición de feromonas de *Spodoptera* y varias especies de Phycitinae que comparten los compuestos de la palomilla del nopal. Se incluye la feromona comercial actual y la encontrada en este trabajo.

Especie/ Comp	Cc Heath	Cc act	Hu	Sp	Eph	El	Pl	Hy	Gl	Ca
Z,E-9,12- 14:AC	53	30	0	22	0	80	77	50	0	60
Z9-14:Ac	4	19	80	55	20	20	0	30	0	40
Z,E-9,12- 14:OH	42	50	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0
Z9-14:OH	0	0	4	0	10	0	0		10	0
Z,9-14:AL	0	0	0	0	20	0	5	20	10	0

Fuente: Pherolist, 2004.

Cc=Cactoblastis, H=Hulstia, Sp=Spodoptera, Eph=Ephestia, El=Elasmopalpus, Pl=Plodia, Hy=Hysipyla, Gl= Glyptoteles, Ca=Cadra.

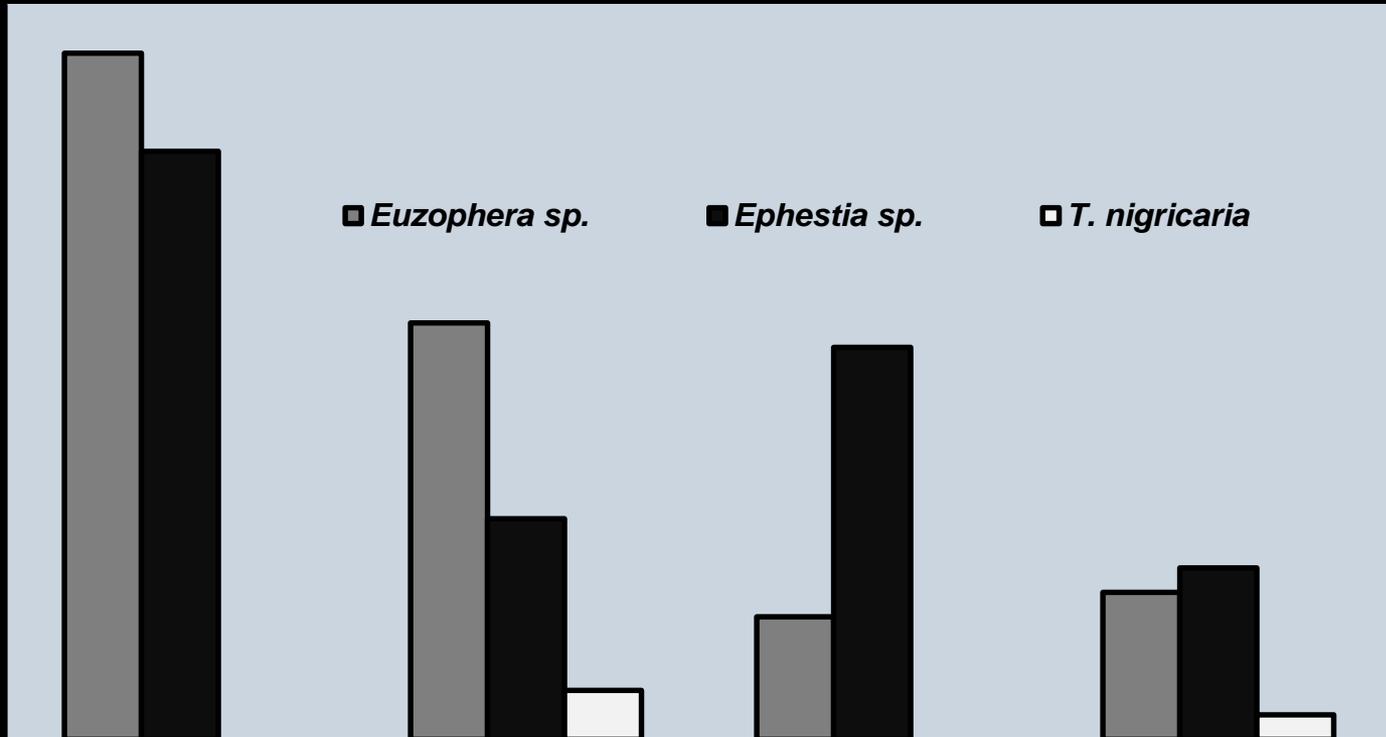
In both types of traps (treatments) was installed a rubber septum (white, 8 mm internal diameter) with 1 mg of the mixture of compounds of the sex pheromone of *C. cactorum*.



Washing (a) and preparation (b) of the septa with the pheromone of *C. cactorum*.

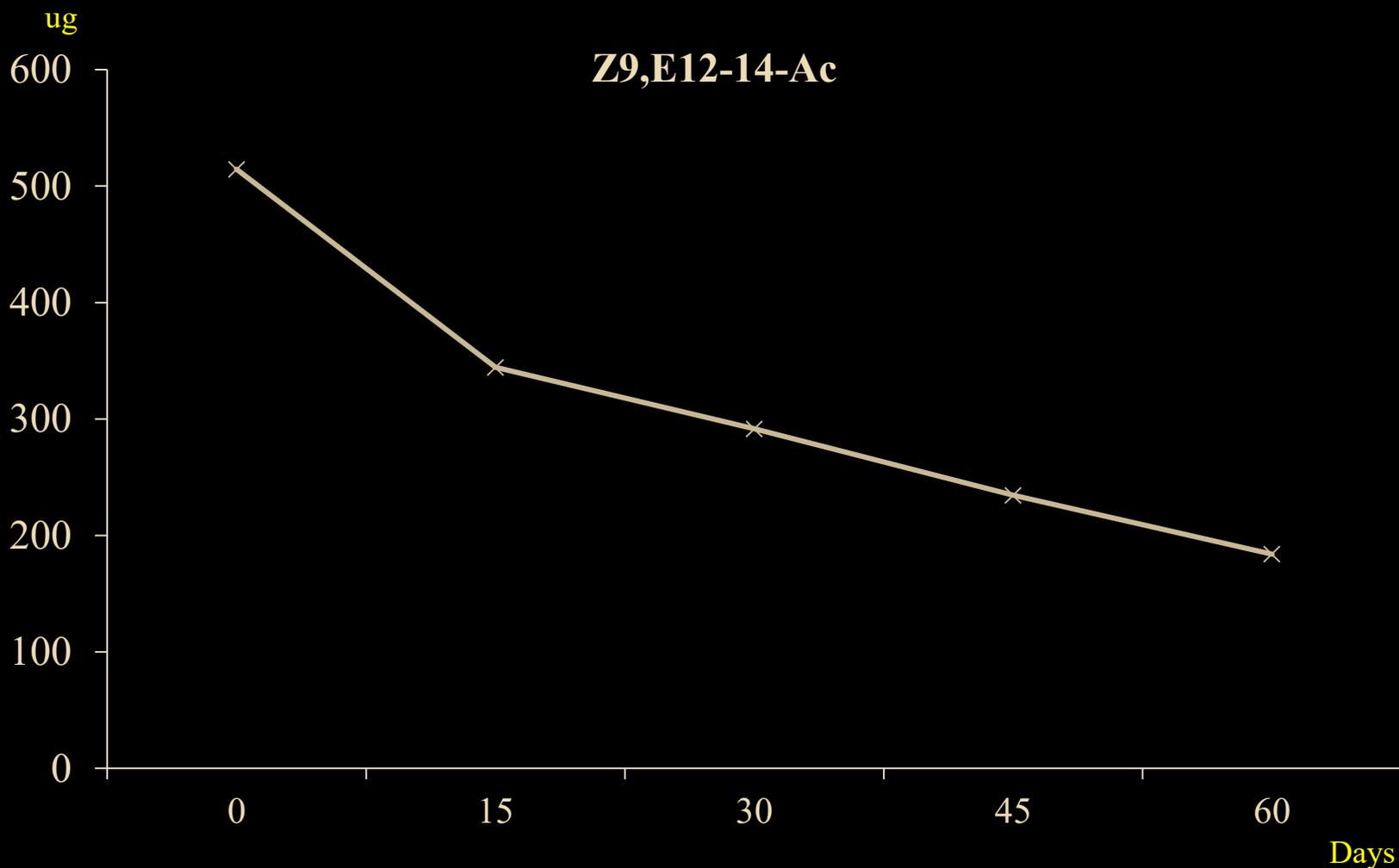
Las “cuijas” son atraídas por las palomillas atrapadas y pueden afectar el monitoreo de las palomillas





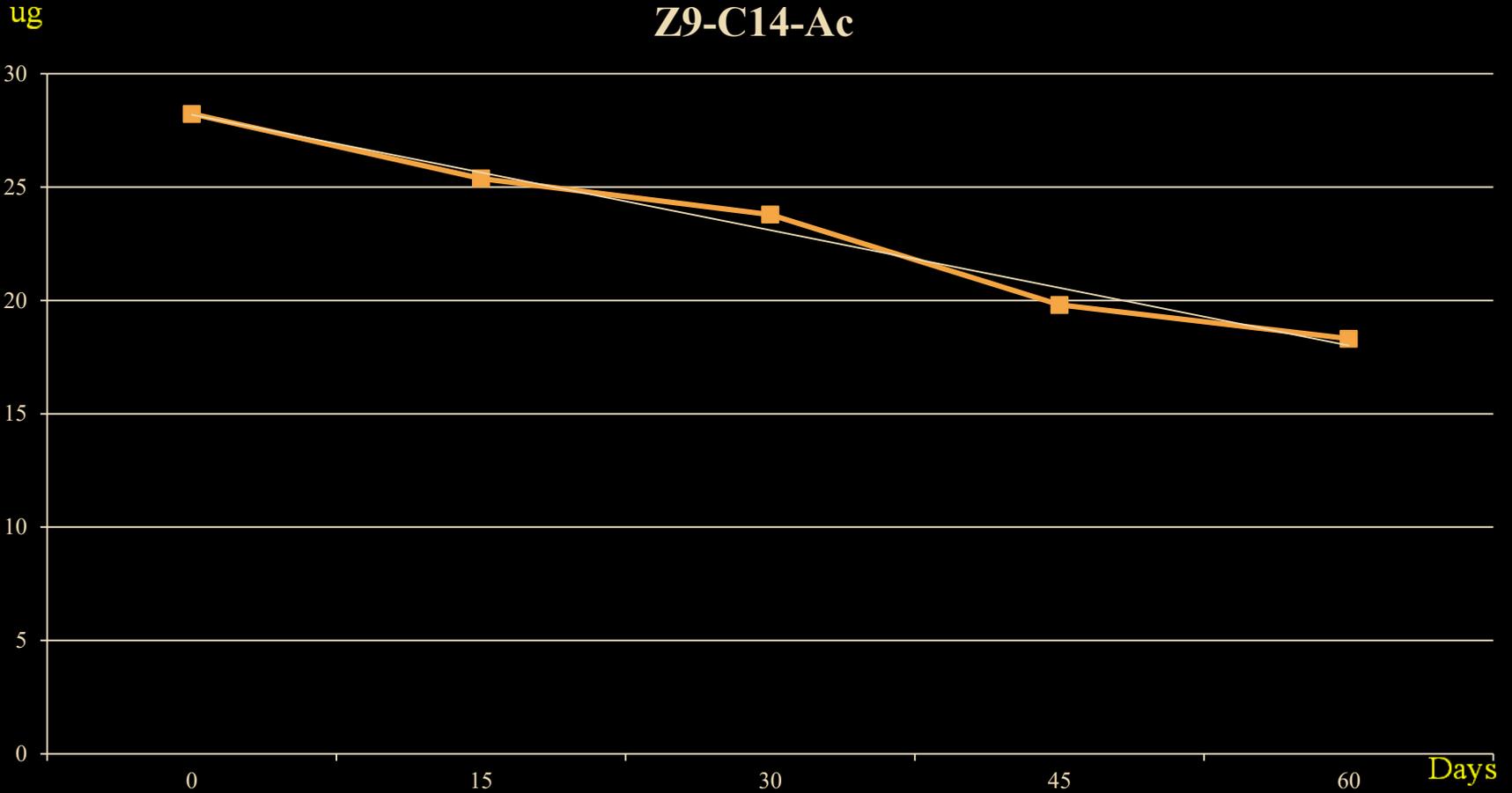
Non-target insects captured with the pheromone of *C. cactorum* from 01 to 22 October 2010.

Ecuación de concentración = $70.34 - 5.18 * (\text{días})$ $R^2 = 89.89$ y $CV = 12.22$ La proporción media de liberación del Z9-E12-tetradecadienyl-acetate fue de 5.18 ug por día. La tendencia es mostrada en la figura de abajo.

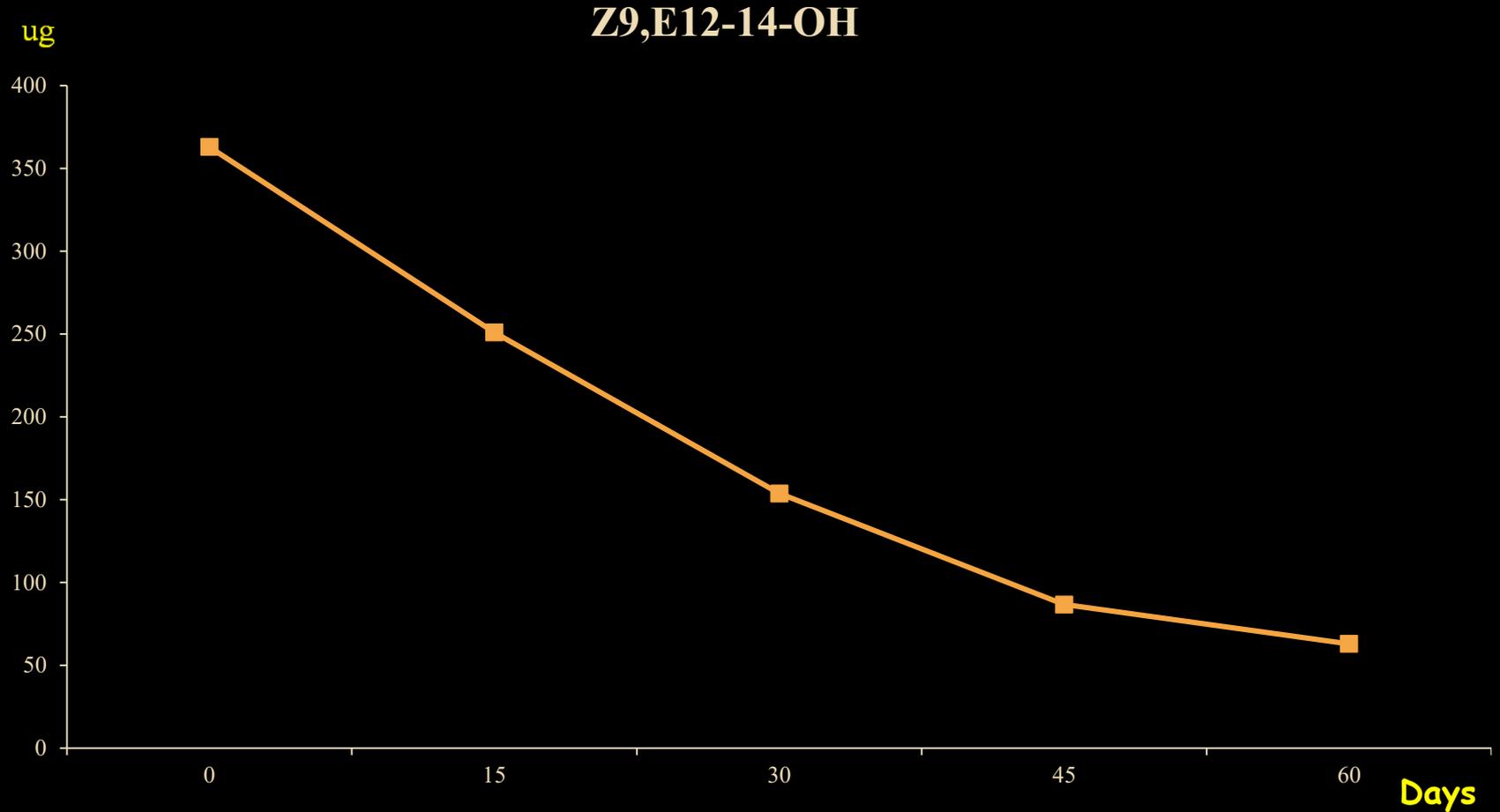


Ecuación

Concentración= $28.29 - 0.17 * (\text{días})$ $R^2 = 92.45$ y $CV = 4.68$ la tasa promedio de liberación para el Z-9-tetradeceny acetato es de $0.17 \mu\text{g}$ por día. La tendencia se presenta en la siguiente figura.



Concentración= $339.04 - 5.15 * (\text{días})$ $R^2 = 93.84$, el promedio de la tasa de liberación del ZE, 9.12 - Tetradecadienol fue de 5.15 ug por día. La tendencia es mostrada en la figura de abajo.





24/09/2006

**Larvas de la palomilla del
nopal vistas a trasluz. Isla
Mujeres, QR, México, agosto,
2006**

**Trampa de feromona para la
palomilla del nopal en Isla
Mujeres, QR, México Agosto,
2006**



Estos resultados confirman que bajo las condiciones de Cancún, QR, los septos duran al menos 45 días.

Los dos tipos de trampas son efectivas para capturar insectos NO-Blanco.

Habra que determinar si el color de la trampa influye en la captura

Trampas diseñadas con envases vacios son mas baratas 10 pesos que trampas comerciales 35

Villa Quilino: Plantación con manejo *O. ficus-indica*



- ◆ Podas
- ◆ Sin eliminación de malezas
- ◆ Riego ocasional
- ◆ Sin plaguicidas
- ◆ Altura de plantas 1-1.5 m

Pampa Muyoj: Plantacion sin manejo

O. ficus-indica



- ◆ Sin poda
- ◆ Eliminación de malezas
- ◆ Sin riego
- ◆ Sin insecticidas
- ◆ Altura de plantas, 3-4 m

Cuadro 1. Número de machos capturados con trampas cebadas con diferentes componentes y proporciones de la feromona sintética de *Cactoblastis cactorum* en Argentina: Quilino (1), Pampa Muyoj (2), Febrero 2011.

Tratamiento	Machos capturados (1)	Machos capturados (2)	Total
1	33	41	74
2	33	51	84
3	16	40	56
4	10	34	44
5	23	47	70
6	16	46	62
7	9	13	22
8	50	81	131
9	25	64	89

Se destaca el tratamiento ocho.



Gracias!

Dr. Javier Trujillo
Dr. Robyn Rose
Rebeca Gutiérrez
Robert Caldwell
Susan Drawdy
Judy Hayes
Heather Sheppard
Shaun Shiver
Morgan Moser
Julio Velazquez
Ausencio Azuara



Informes:
Juan Cibrian Tovar
jcibrian@colpos.mx
Tel. 595-9511580
595-9520200-1657

Pheromone-Based Attractant for Males of *Cactoblastis cactorum* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

ROBERT R. HEATH,^{1,2} PETER E. A. TEAL,³ NANCY D. EPSKY,¹ BARBARA D. DUEBEN,³
STEPHEN D. HIGHT,⁴ STEPHANIE BLOEM,⁵ JAMES E. CARPENTER,⁶ THOMAS J. WEISSLING,⁷
PAUL E. KENDRA,¹ JUAN CIBRIAN-TOVAR,⁸ AND KENNETH A. BLOEM⁵

Environ. Entomol. 35(6): 1469–1476 (2006)

ABSTRACT The cactus moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum* (Berg), is an invasive pest of *Opuntia* spp. Since its arrival in the Florida Keys in 1989, it has moved rapidly up the east and west coasts of Florida, threatening to invade the southwestern United States and Mexico. Female moths produce a sex pheromone that attracts male moths. In this study, we report on mating behavior observed in the laboratory and the identification of putative pheromonal chemical components based on mass spectral analysis of volatiles collected from virgin female moths and from solvent extraction of excised glands. Three candidate components, formulated on rubber septa in different release rates and ratios, were tested in laboratory olfactometer and flight tunnel experiments, and in field tests in areas with known feral populations of cactus moths. Lures formulated with the three-component blend of 54% (*Z,E*)-9,12 tetradecadien-1-ol acetate, 42% (*Z,E*)-9,12 tetradecadien-1-ol, and 4% (*Z*)-9-tetradecen-1-ol acetate were the most effective, although changes in the ratio of these components had little effect on lure efficacy. For field deployment, traps baited with synthetic lures with a 1 mg load of the three component blend captured equal or higher numbers of males than traps baited with two virgin females. Trapping systems using this pheromone-based attractant will be useful for population delineation in areas currently infested.

KEY WORDS sex pheromone, field trapping, lure, gland extracts, olfactometer



United States Department of Agriculture

Research, Education, and Economics
Agricultural Research Service



January 3, 2012

To: Administrator's Council and South Atlantic Area

From: Dr. Deborah Brennan, Director South Atlantic *Deborah Brennan*

Date: 2012.01.03 14:18:29
-05'00'

Subject: The Death of Mr. Robert (Bob) Heath

I am deeply saddened to report that Mr. Robert (Bob) Heath passed away on December 29, 2011. In his 43-years of service with ARS, he has served as Research Leader/Supervisory Research Chemist as well as Location Coordinator at the Subtropical Horticultural Research Station, Miami, FL (1999-2011), Research Chemist at the Center for Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology, Gainesville, FL (1978-1999) and in support staff positions at Beltsville, MD and Gainesville, FL (1968-1978).

Mr. Heath was an internationally recognized scientist with specialization in the development and applications of insect semiochemicals and other attractants for the control of agricultural insect pests. He developed considerable expertise in the areas of chemical separation science, microanalytical techniques, formulations of semiochemicals, and identification of novel pheromones. The international recognition and pioneering status of Mr. Heath's research is evidenced by his 210 refereed publications and book chapters. He authored or co-authored three symposia chapters, nine book chapters, nine patents recorded and two pending. Twenty-two of his publications were the result of collaborative efforts with scientists from several countries world-wide. Additionally, Mr.



Cactus pear deserves a place on the menu

Turning a useful food-of-last-resort into a managed and valuable crop



"Climate change and the increasing risks of droughts are strong reasons to upgrade the humble cactus to the status of an essential crop in many areas" - Hans Dreyer, director of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division.

Cactus plants need not be prickly and can act as precious natural resources, especially in dryland areas where they can make important food-security contributions for people and livestock.

FAO gathered experts on the hardy plant to pool their knowledge in a bid to help farmers and policy makers make more strategic and efficient use of landscapes often dismissed as arid and infertile.

During the recent [intense drought](#) in southern Madagascar, cactus proved a crucial supply of food, forage and water for local people and their animals. The same area had once suffered a severe famine as the result of efforts to eradicate the plant, which some saw as a worthless invasive species. It was quickly reintroduced.



Cactus pears in a market garden in Morocco. Apart from providing food, cactus stores water in its pads, and can provide up to 180 tonnes of water per hectare – enough to sustain five adult cows. Photo: FAO/Abdelhak Senna

Yields of commercially grown *Opuntia* vary substantially according to place, cultivar and growing technique. Harvesting more than 20 tonnes of fruit per hectare is common in Israel, Italy and where irrigation is used in Mexico – a few cases of 50-tonne yields have been reported – but output is lower in most arid and rainfall-dependent locations.

The cactus pear's biological trick is a special kind of photosynthesis – crassulacean acid metabolism – that allows them to take in water during the night.

Read FAO's new publication:

[Crop Ecology, Cultivation and Uses of Cactus Pear](#)

Learn more:

[Cactus pear as a traditional crop](#)

[The Cactus Network](#)

[International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas \(ICARDA\)](#)

[Exporting Ethiopia's cactus pear jam](#)



¡Gracias!

La capacidad del nopal para sobrevivir en climas áridos y secos lo convierte en un elemento clave en la seguridad alimentaria. (Foto: Pixabay)

Diciembre 1, 2017



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations