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Preference of the natal fruit fly, *Ceratitis rosa* to different fruit scents in a choice trial

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Abstract

Ceratitis rosa(Natal Fruit Fly) is one of the most economically important pests of citrus fruits throughout the world.*C. rosa* like other fruit flies statuses as a major pest; is maintained on cultivated fruits because it is more abundant in both cultivated and wild fruits throughout the year. *C. rosa* has a wide range of hosts including citruses as one of the most preferred cultivated hosts.Fruit fly management aims at deploying Bait Application Technique (BAT) which has been considered to control fruit flies over a large area. This can be achieved by using an "Attract and Kill"approach incorporating attractants in the form of food and pheromones. In this study fruit scents have be used as attractants in a bait station to attract flies to the killing agent. Flies have been introduced to the different fruit scents in a choice experiment to determine the most preferred scent/s and preliminary results have shown that orange scent (Limonene) and banana scent (Isomyl acetate) are the most attractive to the Natal fruit fly. Further trials will be carried out to further test the attractiveness of these scents in fruit fly baits.