

THE USE OF TRAPS TO MONITOR INSECT INFESTATIONS IN COCOA CONTAINER SHIPMENTS

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ABSTRACT (Full paper not available)

Cocoa beans are routinely fumigated with phosphine before being shipped in containers to the UK. If, upon arrival, the containers are found to be infested, they are re-fumigated. During 1993 an increase in the infestation rate in containers originating from West Africa was observed. To explore the potential of insect pheromone traps as a monitoring tool for infestations in such shipments, as well as to provide information on the effectiveness of the fumigations, traps were placed in containers prior to shipment and examined upon arrival. Initially, eight trap locations were used in each of 39 containers to evaluate three trap types: window trap and locator trap (both from AgriSense-BCS) and a prototype floor trap from CSL. The results indicated both the relative effectiveness of the trap types and the most effective placement of the traps. The results also demonstrated that the infestations were the result of a failure in the West African fumigations rather than of post-fumigation re-infestation. Recommendations are made concerning the number, placement and type of trap to use for monitoring infestations of moths and beetles within cocoa containers. The traps demonstrated their value to the cocoa trade, not only in pin-pointing fumigation problems but also as an inexpensive, essential monitoring tool.