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Short communication

Flight behaviour of *Prostephanus truncatus* and *Teretrius nigrescens* demonstrated by a cheap and simple pheromone-baited trap designed to segregate catches with time

L.A. Birkinshaw^a, R.J. Hodges^{a,*}, S. Addo^b

^a *Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4TB, UK*

^b *Post-harvest Management Division, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, PO Box HP 165, Ho, Ghana*

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Abstract

The storage pest *Prostephanus truncatus* (Horn) (Coleoptera: Histeridae) and its predator *Teretrius nigrescens* (Lewis) (Coleoptera: Histeridae) are both known to disperse by flight. The pattern of flight activity of the two beetles in Ghana, across 11 months of the year, was investigated using a novel flight trap that separates catch at 3-h intervals. *Prostephanus truncatus* showed most flight activity around dusk with a smaller peak around dawn. *Teretrius nigrescens* had a strong diurnal peak. There were considerable differences in catch of both species during the year and when catch was low the peaks in activity were also less distinct.

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1. Introduction

It is well known that insects favour particular times of day for flight. Several insect pests of stored products, e.g. *Rhyzopertha dominica* (F.) (Barrer et al., 1993), *Sitophilus zeamais* Motschulsky and *Ephestia cautella* (Walker) (Giles, 1969), show mid- to late afternoon peaks in flight activity. This behaviour can be studied using traps such as the Johnson–Taylor suction trap (Burkard Ltd, UK) that separate catch according to time of day. Such traps are relatively expensive, so in view of this a simple, cheap pheromone-baited flight trap was constructed to observe the flight activities of the larger grain borer, *Prostephanus truncatus* (Horn)

*Corresponding author. Tel.: +44-1634-883-813; fax: +44-1634-883-567.

E-mail address: r.j.hodges@gre.ac.uk (R.J. Hodges).