STERILITY IN TROUBLE: When Pest Mating Challenges Sterile Insect Technique

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SMAI - June 3rd 2025 - Bordeaux 12^{ième} Biennale Française des Mathématiques Appliquées et Industrielles



SMAI société de mathématiques appliquées et industrielles



Context



- Alternative technique to pesticides, specific to the targeted pest (autocide)
- Technique emerged in the **1930s-1950s** (Dyck et al. 2021)

C.S. Department of Agriculture



Edward F. Knipling American entomologist



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Screw-worm fly Cochliomyia hominivorax

First major success

► heavy losses in the livestock sector

• Concept: release sterile males into the wild to disrupt the insects' reproductive cycle (the number of offspring)





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Mediterranean fruit fly

Ceratitis capitata

> dreaded in world agriculture

Tiger mosquito Aedes albopictus

> disease vector (dengue) fever, malaria, Zika)



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PRODUCTION

Mass-rearing of targeted insects









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• Concept: release sterile males into the wild to disrupt the insects' reproductive cycle (the number of offspring)

MASS RELEASES LUTION OF WILD POPULATIONS







Challenges - Scientific question



Several factors can interfere with SIT effectiveness:

PRODUCTION



205

STERILIZATION



Mass-rearing of targeted insects Separation to keep only males

205

500

Exposure to ionizing radiation



DILUTION OF WILD POPULATIONS MASS RELEASES



▷ No offspring

Fertile matings

▷ Offspring

Population decrease



Several factors can interfere with SIT effectiveness:

SEXING

• **Residual fertility (RF)**: imperfect sterilization

Mass-rearing of targeted insects

PRODUCTION

Separation to keep only males

Exposure to ionizing radiation

STERILIZATION



DILUTION OF WILD POPULATIONS MASS RELEASES Sterile matings > No offspring Fertile matings C > Offspring **Population decrease**



Several factors can interfere with SIT effectiveness: • **Residual fertility (RF)**: imperfect sterilization The number of males available in the environment to produce offspring PRODUCTION **SEXING STERILIZATION** Separation to Mass-rearing of Exposure to ionizing keep only targeted insects radiation males













DILUTION OF WILD POPULATIONS







Losses up to 100% of the production (Jerraya 2003; Ryckewaert et al. 2010, Mazzi et al. 2017)





Highly polyphagous (Green et al. 2019)







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Highly polyphagous (Green et al. 2019)



Damage arise from: oviposition wounds internal larval feeding pathogens

Life cycle

Air

Ground





• An irradiation dose inducing 100% sterility is rarely used in SIT programs (Robinson. 2005, Bakri and Mehta. 2005)



How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 5

Radiation

If high doses: loss of attractiveness (Bakri et al, 2005)

Competitiveness

Trade-off (Parker et Mehta, 2007)



Sterilized males





Wild females

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 6

$$\dot{M} = -\mu_M M + rp \frac{M + \epsilon \eta S}{k + M + \eta S} C(F)F + \delta$$

 $\dot{F} = -\mu_F F + r(1-p) \frac{M + \epsilon \eta S}{k + M + \eta S} C(F) F$

 $\dot{S} = -\mu_S S + (1 - \delta)\sigma$



 $\stackrel{\mu_S}{\longrightarrow}$ Ø

Sterilized males







Wild males

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 6

$$\begin{cases} \dot{M} = -\mu_M M + rp \frac{M + \epsilon \eta S}{k + M + \eta S} C(F)F + \delta \\ Mortality \\ \dot{F} = -\mu_F F + r(1 - p) \frac{M + \epsilon \eta S}{k + M + \eta S} C(F)F \\ Mortality \\ \dot{S} = -\mu_S S + (1 - \delta)\sigma \\ Mortality \\ \end{cases}$$

Mortality rate μ_x





• No residual fertility ($\delta = 0, \epsilon = 0$)

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 6

$$\begin{cases} \dot{M} = -\mu_M M + rp \frac{M + \epsilon \eta S}{k + M + \eta S} C(F)F + \delta \\ & \text{Mortality} & \text{Offspring} \\ \dot{F} = -\mu_F F + r(1 - p) \frac{M + \epsilon \eta S}{k + M + \eta S} C(F)F \\ & \text{Mortality} & \text{Offspring} \\ \end{cases}$$

Mortality rate	C(F) =
Sex ratio	
Emergence rate	
Mating half-saturation of	constant
Sterilization cost	
Sterilized male release ra	ate
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• No residual fertility ($\delta = 0, \epsilon = 0$)

• Cost-free fertility model ($\delta \neq 0, \epsilon = 0$)

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 6

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μ_x	Mortality rate $C(F) = \frac{1}{1 + Q}$
p	Sex ratio $1 + \beta$
r	Emergence rate
k	Mating half-saturation constant
$1-\eta$	Sterilization cost
σ	Sterilized male release rate
δ, ϵ	Proportion of non-sterile males among
	the releases





Residual fertility study:

- No residual fertility ($\delta = 0, \epsilon = 0$)
- Cost-free fertility model ($\delta \neq 0, \epsilon = 0$)
- Costly fertility model ($\delta = 0, \epsilon \neq 0$)

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⇒ Equilibrium research

⇒ Stability study

⇒ Identification of situations where population densities can be controlled.


0

0



When $\sigma >$ tipping point: pest-free equilibrium E₀* is LAS When σ < tipping point: convergence towards E₀* or E₂*

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 7





















MM CONCLUSION RF CONTEXT CHALLENGES

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Residual Fertility (RF): Results

HO

Cost-free fertility model



Ceratitis capitata

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 9

Costly fertility model



Courtois et al. 2024, Bulletin of Mathematical Biology



MM CONCLUSION RF **CHALLENGES** CONTEXT

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Residual Fertility (RF): Results





Eradication threshold

Eradication

Population reduction

Eradication threshold

Ceratitis capitata

How low residual fertility rate should be to ensure pest control? 9

Costly fertility model

Control threshold



Courtois et al. 2024, Bulletin of Mathematical Biology





MM CONCLUSION RF **CHALLENGES** CONTEXT

Residual Fertility (RF): Results





RF CONTEXT CHALLENGES

NOSSOUR (2) Multiple matings: ability for females to mate and re-mate





(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to mate and re-mate Historically... "Females must normally mate only once." (Knipling, 1955) New World screwworm Gypsy moth Oriental fruit fly Mediterranean fruit fly Tsetse fly



Monoandrous

...but

Polyandry is not inherently incompatible with SIT (Knipling, 1959a,b; von Borstel and Knipling, 1960; Dyck et al., 2021).

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 10

Polyandrous



(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to mate and re-mate Historically...



Monoandrous

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> However,

• Female re-mating rates and sperm selection mechanisms could significantly influence SIT efficiency (Pérez-Staples et al, 2013; Vreysen et al, 2007).

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(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to material $\begin{cases} \dot{L} = \omega (1 - \frac{L}{K}) F_F - \mu_L L \\ \dot{M} = -\mu_M M & \text{fem} \\ \dot{F}_U = & \mathbf{F}_I = &$ female re-ma temale

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Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 12



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Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 12



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Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 12



(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to matematic for the second standard for the second 2113 The sterilized and estimated $L = \omega (1 - \frac{L}{K}) F_F - \mu_L L - \nu L,$ $M = \nu p L - \mu_M M_{c}$ temáte $F_U = \nu(1-p)L +$ <u>temale</u>

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 $= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum$

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(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to mating a net mating from the mating from the with such that $L = \omega(1 - \frac{L}{K})F_F - \mu_L L - \nu L$, $(L = \omega(1 - \frac{L}{K})F_F - \mu_L L - \nu L$

 $F_{U} = \nu(1-p)L + F_{F}$ $F_{I} = \chi \frac{\eta S}{M+\eta S} female Fe nation is for a female fe nation is for a female fermion of the female$

 $M = \nu p L - \mu_M M_{c}$ females

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 $\frac{2}{24} = p_{12} p_{12} p_{13}$

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 $\frac{1}{2}$

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Egg-laying rate





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Equilibria are solutions of:

$$F_{F} = \frac{(\mu_{L} + \nu)}{\omega(1 - \frac{L}{K})}L,$$

$$M = \frac{\nu p}{\mu_{M}}L = \gamma L,$$

$$F_{I} = \left(\frac{\nu(1 - p)}{\mu_{F}} - \frac{(\mu_{L} + \nu)}{\omega(1 - \frac{L}{K})}\right)L,$$

$$\nu(1 - p)\frac{\eta S}{M + \eta S}F_{F} + \tau_{F}\frac{\eta S}{M + \eta S}F_{F} - (\mu_{F} + \tau_{I}\frac{M}{M + \eta S})F_{I} = 0,$$

$$S = \frac{\sigma}{\mu_{S}}.$$

• Pest-free equilibrium: $E_0^* = (0, 0, 0, 0, \frac{\sigma}{\mu_S})$ Infestation equilibria: using (i), (ii), (iii), (iv) and (v), other equilibria are solutions of:

$$\frac{\gamma \mu_S (\mu_F + \tau_I) \mathcal{R}_0}{K \eta (\mu_F + \tau_F)} (L^*)^2$$

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 16

Basic reproduction number

$$\mathcal{R}_0 = \frac{\nu(1-p)\omega}{\mu_F(\mu_L+\nu)} > 1$$

 (\mathbf{i})

 (\mathbf{ii})

 (\mathbf{iii})

 (\mathbf{iv})

 (\mathbf{V})

$$\frac{\gamma \mu_S(\mu_F + \tau_I)(\mathcal{R}_0 - 1)}{\eta(\mu_F + \tau_F)} L^* = \sigma.$$





Without remating = Equal remating > Remating ($\tau_{I} > \tau_{F}$)

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 18

Remating ($\tau_{\rm I} < \tau_{\rm F}$) > Without remating = Equal remating > Remating ($\tau_{\rm I} > \tau_{\rm F}$) > Remating of infertile females only ($\tau_{\rm I} > \tau_{\rm F} = 0$)

Drosophila suzukii



Drosophila suzukii

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 19







Drosophila suzukii

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 19





Drosophila suzukii

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 19







tiple matings: ability for females to mate and remarked to the the former to the block of the bar o

 $\nu(1 - N) - nS \qquad \omega(1 - \frac{L}{K})$

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8 . (1)Som - A Egg-laying rate







- Without MM = Use of First sperm
- « > » = better reduction

→ MM is not incompatible with SIT; it can even be beneficial over a short season by accelerating female « defertilization » through remating with sterilized males

~100 days

1e6

1.0

0.8

0.6

0.2

0.0

Sterilized male release rate





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(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to mate and re-mate
No data on the use of sperm in *D.suzukii*...

spermathecae

Fig. extracted from Avanesyan et al. 2017

Drosophila suzukii

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 21





▷ Offspring from ~2-5 males (Puppato et al, 2023)



First-male parentage preference (Chen et al, 2022)



(2) Multiple matings: ability for females to mate and re-mate
No data on the use of sperm in *D.suzukii*...

spermathecae

Fig. extracted from Avanesyan et al. 2017

Drosophila suzukii

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT? 21

...but data for *D.melanogaster* and *D.hibisci*

Last

Production of > 80% offspring (Qazi et al, 2003)

Mixed

Storage of sperm from > 2 males simultaneously
 (Bangham et al, 2003)

▷ 2 spermathecae (Avanesyan et al. 2017)

➡ Offspring from ~2-5 males (Puppato et al, 2023)

First

Existence of mating plug (Polak et al. 2001)
 storage of 2nd sperm (Hopkins et al, 2020)

➡ First-male parentage preference (Chen et al, 2022)









- Limited difference between sperm use biases
- Effective control even in the worst-case scenario



Discussion - Conclusion





PRODUCTION SEXING

Mass-rearing of targeted insects



205

500

Zes

500

500



STERILIZATION

Exposure to ionizing radiation



MASS RELEASESDILUTION OF WILD POPULATIONS





- as the sterile irradiated males.





- long as the fertile irradiated males are just as bad as the sterile irradiated males.



- long as the fertile irradiated males are just as bad as the sterile irradiated males.







Marine Courtois (INRAE Sophia Antipolis, France)













Compartmental model



Agent-based model

— W	R — First	Last	
$\sigma = 300000$	$\sigma = 45000$)0 ($\sigma = 600000$





Biological parameters - Ceratitis capitata

Parameters	Descriptions	Values & [Range]	Units
μ_F	Female mortality rate ^{1,6}	0.050 [0.018 - 0.083]	day^{-1}
μ_M	Male mortality rate ^{1,6}	0.036 [0.014 - 0.057]	day^{-1}
μ_S	Sterilized male mortality rate ^{2,6}	0.057 [0.037 - 0.077]	day^{-1}
p	Sex ratio ³	0.500 [0.450 - 0.550]	
r	Emergence rate ^{4,6}	23.7 [19.2 - 28.5]	day^{-1}
k	Mating half-saturation constant ⁵	1 [0.01 - 100]	ind.ha ⁻¹
$1-\eta$	Sterilization cost ⁵	0.8 [0 - 1]	-
β	Oviposition competition between females ⁶	$0.24 \ [0.18 - 0.30]$	$(ind.ha^{-1})^{-1}$
σ	Sterilized male release rate ⁷	250 [0.01 - 500]	ind.ha ⁻¹ .day ⁻¹
δ	Proportion of non-sterile males among	0.5[0.01 - 1]	ARAAAAAA -
	the releases ⁷ (cost-free fertility)		
ϵ	Proportion of non-sterile males among	0.5 [0.01 - 1]	-
	the releases ^{7} (costly fertility)		



Ceratitis capitata





124-1

(1) **Residual fertility**: imperfect sterilization

• Convergence time



Time (days)

Ceratitis capitata

SIT without Residual Fertility (RF)

• Low σ : 200-300 days

➡ More than a fruit season



Var-

(1) **Residual fertility**: imperfect sterilization

• Convergence time



Time (days)

Ceratitis capitata







Biological parameters - Drosophila suzukii

Parameter/Description	Value and [Range]	Unit	Reference
μ_L (Larvae mortality rate)	0.362 [0.353 - 0.372]	day ⁻¹	(Emiljanowicz et al., 2014)
μ_F (Female mortality rate)	0.012 [0.006 - 0.053]	day ⁻¹	(Papanastasiou et al., 2021)
μ_M (Male mortality rate)	0.013 [0.007 - 0.042]	day ⁻¹	(Papanastasiou et al., 2021)
μ_S (Sterilized male mortality rate)	0.054 [0.028 - 1]	day ⁻¹	(Lanouette <i>et al.</i> , 2017)
ω (Egg-laying rate)	5.70 [5.46 - 5.94]	eggs per female per day	(Emiljanowicz et al., 2014)
ν (Larvae hatching rate)	0.166 [0.163 - 0.168]	day ⁻¹	(Emiljanowicz et al., 2014)
p (Sex ratio)	0.50 [0.45 - 0.55]		(Emiljanowicz et al., 2014)
χ (Mating rate)		day ⁻¹	Assumed high ^[1]
$1 - \eta$ (Sterilization cost)	0.40 [0.37 - 0.62]	AND SANGER	(Lanouette et al., 2020)
K (Carrying capacity)	36,000	larvae per hectare	Calculated ^[2]
σ (Sterilized male release rate)	1,000 [200 - 1,200]	ind.day ⁻¹ .ha ⁻¹	(Homem et al., 2022)
T_F (Re-mating rate of fertilized females)	0.12 [0.08 - 0.33]	day ⁻¹	(Krüger et al., 2019)
- <i>I</i> (Re-mating rate of sterilized females)	0.13 [0.09 - 0.25]	day ⁻¹	(Krüger et al., 2019)

Drosophila suzukii



Remating $(\tau_{\rm I} < \tau_{\rm F})$ > Without remating = Equal remating > Remating $(\tau_{\rm I} > \tau_{\rm F})$ > Remating of infertile females only $(\tau_{\rm I} > \tau_{\rm F} = 0)$









STERILE MALES (S)

unique_id (real integer) creation_date (real integer) death_date (real integer)

WILD MALES (W)

unique_id (real integer) creation_date (real integer) death_date (real integer)

Drosophila suzukii

Are multiple matings incompatible with SIT?

• Development of an agent-based model to explore how potential sperm use biases impact pest control with SIT





LARVAE (L)

unique_id (real integer) creation_date (real integer) emergence_date (real integer)

FEMALES (F)

unique_id (real integer) creation_date (real integer) death_date (real integer) time_until_next_mating (real integer) spermatheca (list of -1 initially) eggs_laid (real integer)









