RETENTION OF *CITRUS* POLLEN BY COTTON BOLLWORM ADULTS J. F. Esquivel and T. N. Shaver USDA, ARS, APMRU College Station, TX J. R. Raulston and D. W. Spurgeon USDA, ARS, CIRU Weslaco, TX

Abstract

Citrus pollen retention rates for adult bollworms are influenced by insect sources and sex. Field-collected insects exhibited higher mean citrus pollen retention rates than laboratory-reared insects exposed to citrus blooms for a 12-hr period. This may be attributed to the unknown age and feeding activity of field-collected insects. However, no differences were observed between sexes of field-collected insects. Laboratory-reared females exhibited higher mean pollen retention rates than males. Citrus pollen was found for both sources and sexes through the 72-hr interval. These data should facilitate documenting movement of bollworm adults through backtracking procedures using natural markers such as citrus pollen.