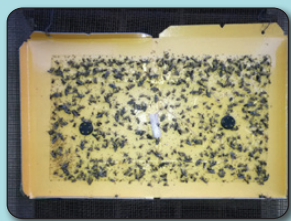


Volatile attractant for trapping Uzi fly, *Exorista bombycis*, a parasitoid pest on mulberry silkworm, *Bombyx mori*



Uzi fly trap

Business and commercial potential

These attractants of uzi fly have high demand in silk farming as the rearing of the worms is done throughout the year. The compatible nature with other eco-friendly measure aids in scaling down the economic loss.

Background

The production of silk cocoons is badly affected by several disease and pests. Among them Uzi fly, *Exorista bombycis* is of major concern. It is an endolarval parasitoid which damage 10-15% of cocoons. The fly lays its egg inside the body of silkworm during third and fourth instars resulting non molting of larvae to cocoon and leads to severe economic damage.

Flies rely on volatile cues to orient to their host. Identifying these cues could aid in development of attractants that could be used for trapping the flies which would aid to scale down the losses caused by it.

Benefits/Utility

Use of insecticides to manage the pests of silk worm is discouraged as they would have serious impact on rearing of silkworms. Hence the technology on development of attractants of uzi fly will be of immense benefit to sericulture as they do not have deleterious effect on non-targets. The pest attractant composition is eco-friendly and economical. This technology already commercialized to two firms.

Scalability

The technology can be taken up at industrial scale.

Target Market/Customer

- Farmers
- Small Scale industries
- Self-help groups

Social Impact of the Technology

- Use of pheromone minimizes the need for pesticides use that causes health hazard to producers and end-users.