

Technical Data Sheet

Pheromone Monitoring Lure for Sweet Potato Weevil (*Cylas puncticollis*)

Latin Name:	<i>Cylas puncticollis</i>
Common Name:	Sweet Potato Weevil
Pheromone active:	decyl (E)-2-butenate
Dispenser:	Vial
Active Life:	4-6 weeks (temperature dependent)
Packaging:	100 per sachet
Sachet Material:	Foil Lined Laminate
Shelf Life:	New lures should be purchased at the start of every season

Cylas puncticollis
adults in trap



Pest Status, Life-Cycle and Damage

The Sweet Potato Weevils (*Cylas* spp.) are among the most important insect pests of sweet potato production world-wide. *Cylas puncticollis* and the smaller *Cylas bruneus* are the most common species in East Africa. Male and female adults can be told apart as antennae of males are straight while those of females are round or club-shaped. After mating, the female lays eggs singly in holes that she has chewed in either the vines or roots. The female can survive for 140 days and lay 50-250 eggs. Most eggs are laid in the first 50 days. Eggs hatch in 3-7 days and the legless, curved and white larvae tunnel while feeding. As well as causing loss of yield, the weevils' feeding activity induces terpenoid production that makes damaged tubers unpalatable. Larvae live for 11-33 days before pupating within the larval tunnels. Adults emerge after 3-28 days. The full life-cycle is 32 days on average. When the adult beetle emerges, initially it is light brown in colour hardening to become dark brown. Once this has occurred, the adult leaves the root zone in search of mates. High numbers of weevils in the foliage usually indicates that there is a high number in the root zone. The female adult weevil produces a pheromone that attracts the male for mating. Male weevils are active at night between midnight and 04:00hrs. During the day they hide under leaves or in soil cracks. Females mate at night but will feed and lay eggs during the day.

Directions for use



C. puncticollis pheromone is supplied as a vial dispenser. Assemble traps with care. Once assembled there should be no need to take apart except to check the base (twist and remove by bayonet fit) or to add the lure (place in cage on top). Place traps at 10m intervals, at the end of rows, on stakes, so that the lure is suspended 15-30cm above the crop. Each trap is supplied with a cord and wire hanger. Use whichever is most convenient. There is also a lure basket with cap. Always use the same trap for the same species and lure type.

Catching solution: Fill trap with water and detergent, e.g. Omo detergent in water (1 g/l). The detergent helps to break the surface tension of the water and drown any insects caught. Note that weevils may recover once removed from the detergent water.

Changing pheromone lures: Keep lures in a fridge or freezer until needed. Remove and reseal and restore the sachet. Each lure should provide optimum release of pheromone for 4 weeks. We recommend that lures are changed after this time.

Storage Instructions

Pheromone lures are sealed in impermeable packaging for storage and shipping. Keep product away from direct sunlight, heat, sparks and open flame. For short term or single season use, the dispensers and systems should be kept under cold storage (4°C) conditions. Storage of dispensers for periods of up to 24 months is possible by refrigeration at temperatures of -18°C. Keep dispensers inside their sealed packaging until needed. When replaced, the old dispenser should be completely removed from the area of use and disposed or destroyed to prevent interference with the fresh replacement/ recharge dispenser.