

# Integration of Entomopathogenic Nematodes (EPNs) in Large Scale Agriculture Systems

Itamar Glazer

Dept. of Entomology, Nematology Div., ARO, The Volcani Center, Israel.



White Grub,  
*Maladera materida*



*Capnodis tenebionis*



Red Palm Weevil  
*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*

# White Grub, *Maladera materida*

## Damage to peanuts



# Field trials

**Location: Magen**

**Treatments: One appl. 500,000 IJ/m<sup>2</sup>**

**Two appl. 250,000 IJ/m<sup>2</sup>**

**Three appl. 175,000 IJ/m<sup>2</sup>**

**Nematodes: *H. bacteriophora*\* -MAGEN**

**Supplied by 'Koppert'**

**Nematode monitoring: 2-3 wk. from last application**

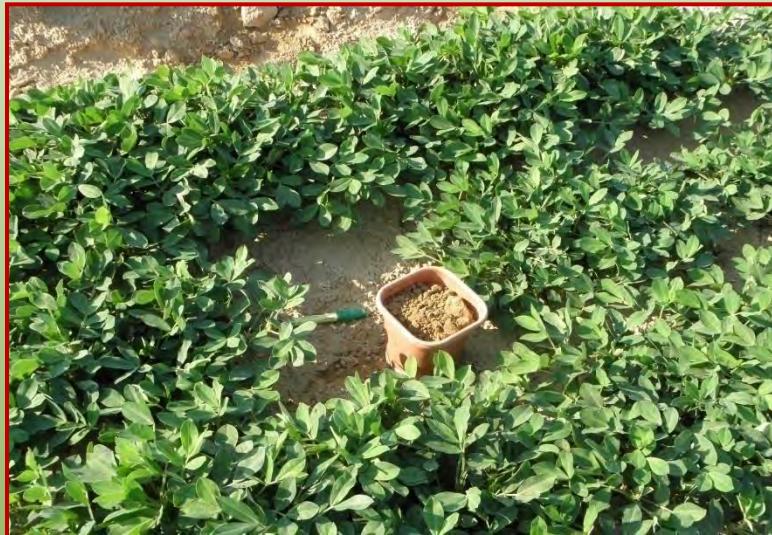
**Effect on yield: End of season, QC procedure.**

**\*Imported by BioBee'**

# Application procedure



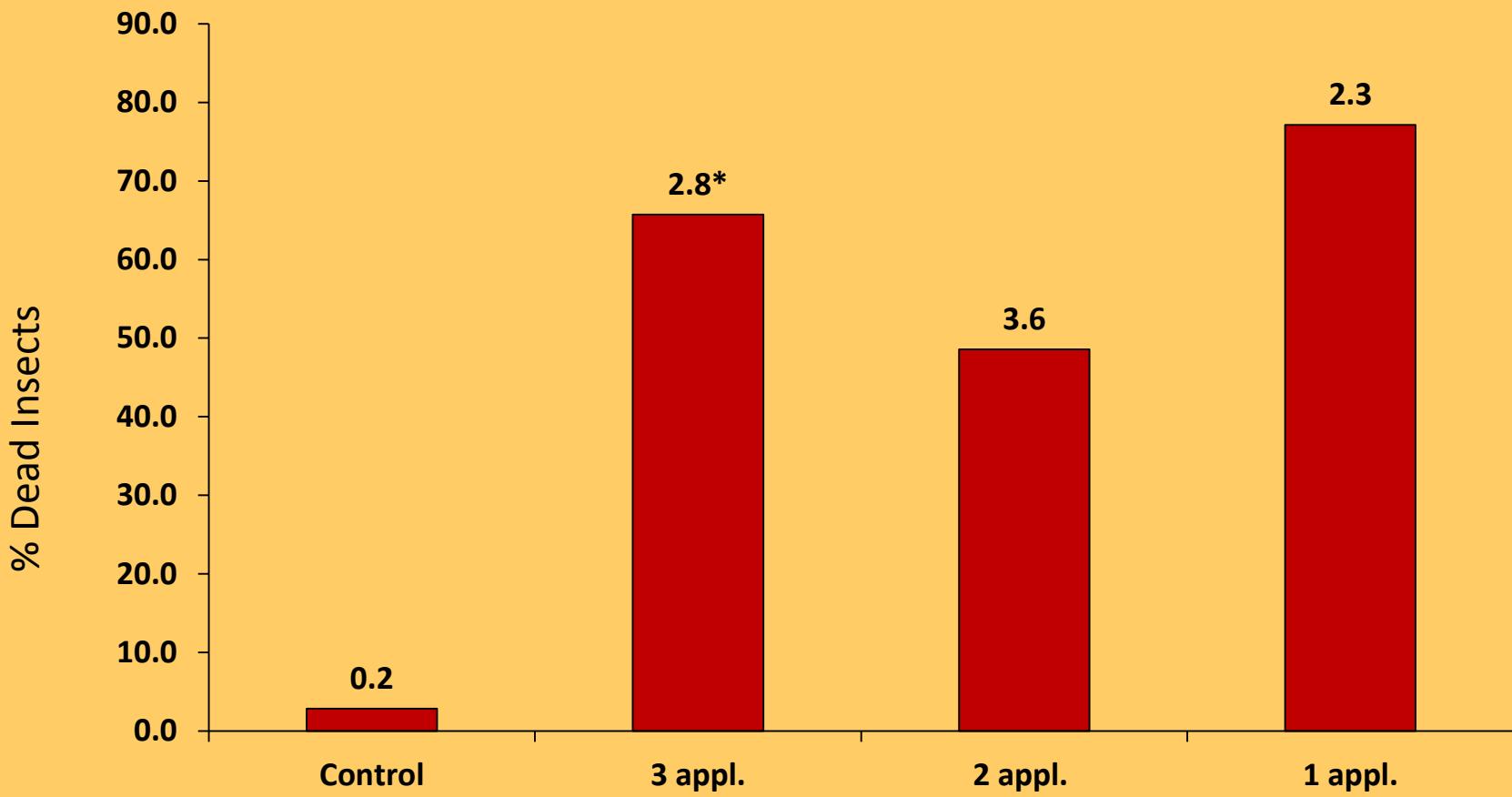
# Detection of nematode persistence



# Nematode activity 1<sup>st</sup> wave

## MAGEN

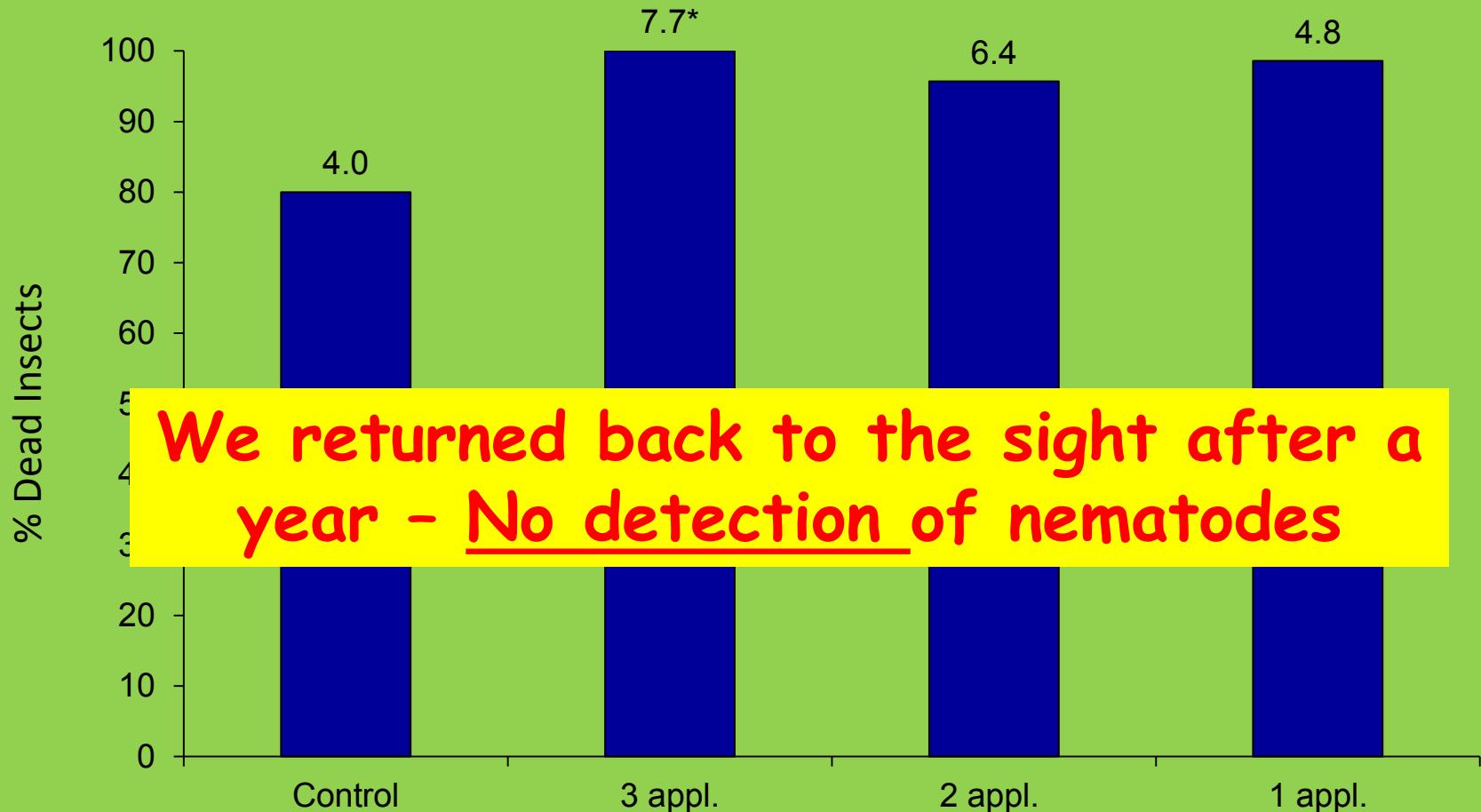
Magen- 1st wave



\* Number of Nematodes per Insect

# Nematode activity 2<sup>st</sup> wave MAGEN

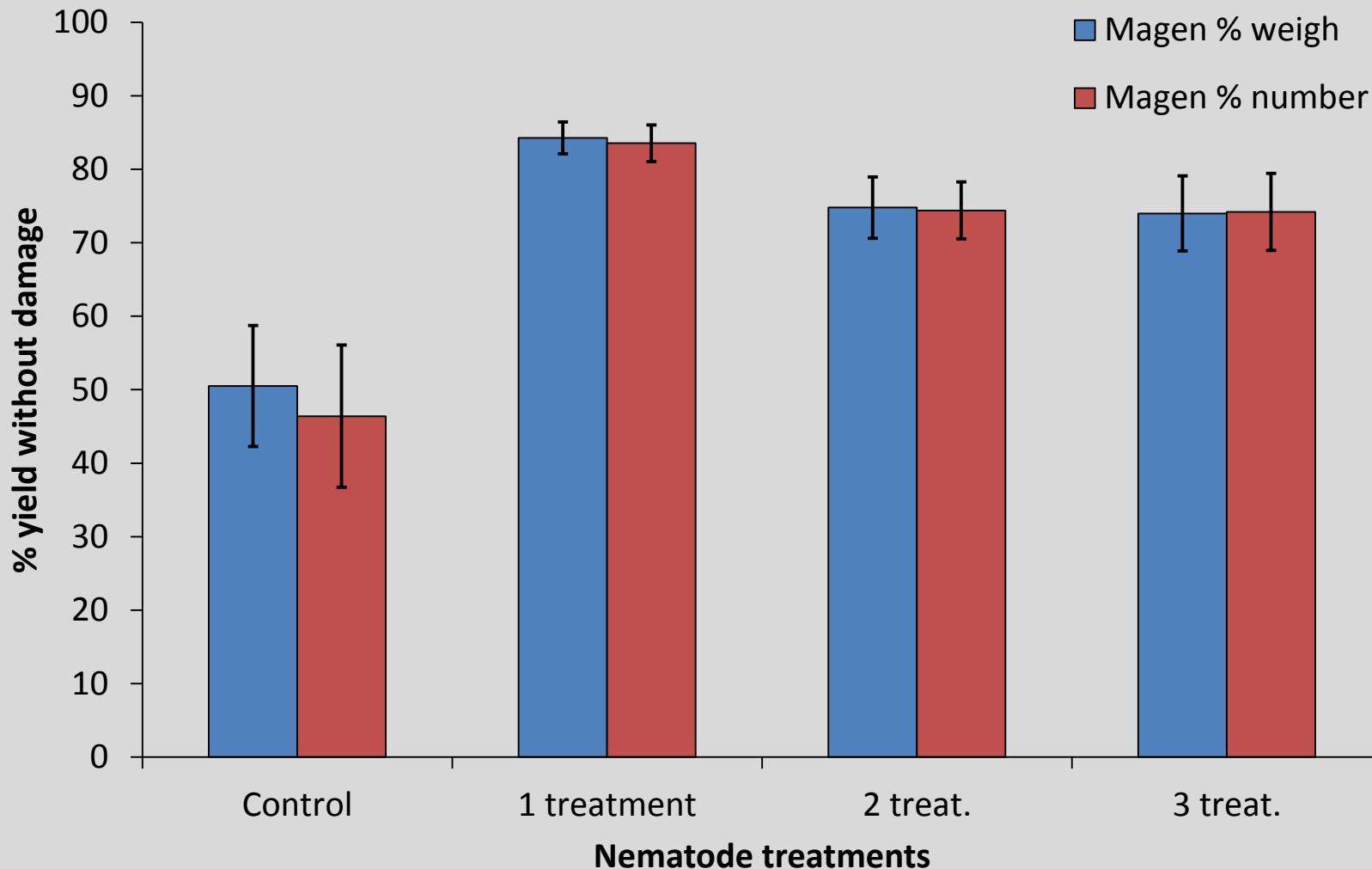
## Magen-2nd Wave



\* Number of Nematodes per Insect

# Effect of Nematode treatments on yield- MAGEN

## Magen- *H. bacteriophora*



# Field trials

Location: Magen

Treatments: One application per insect flight wave

## Application Techniques

Spraying: 500,000 IJ/m<sup>2</sup>

Injection: 500,000 IJ/m<sup>2</sup>

Irrigation: 500,000 IJ/m<sup>2</sup>



Nematodes: *H. bacteriophora*\*

Nematode monitoring: 2-3 wk. from last application

Effect on yield: End of season, QC procedure.

\*Supplied by 'Koppert'

# Application Techniques



Spraying



Injection



Irrigation

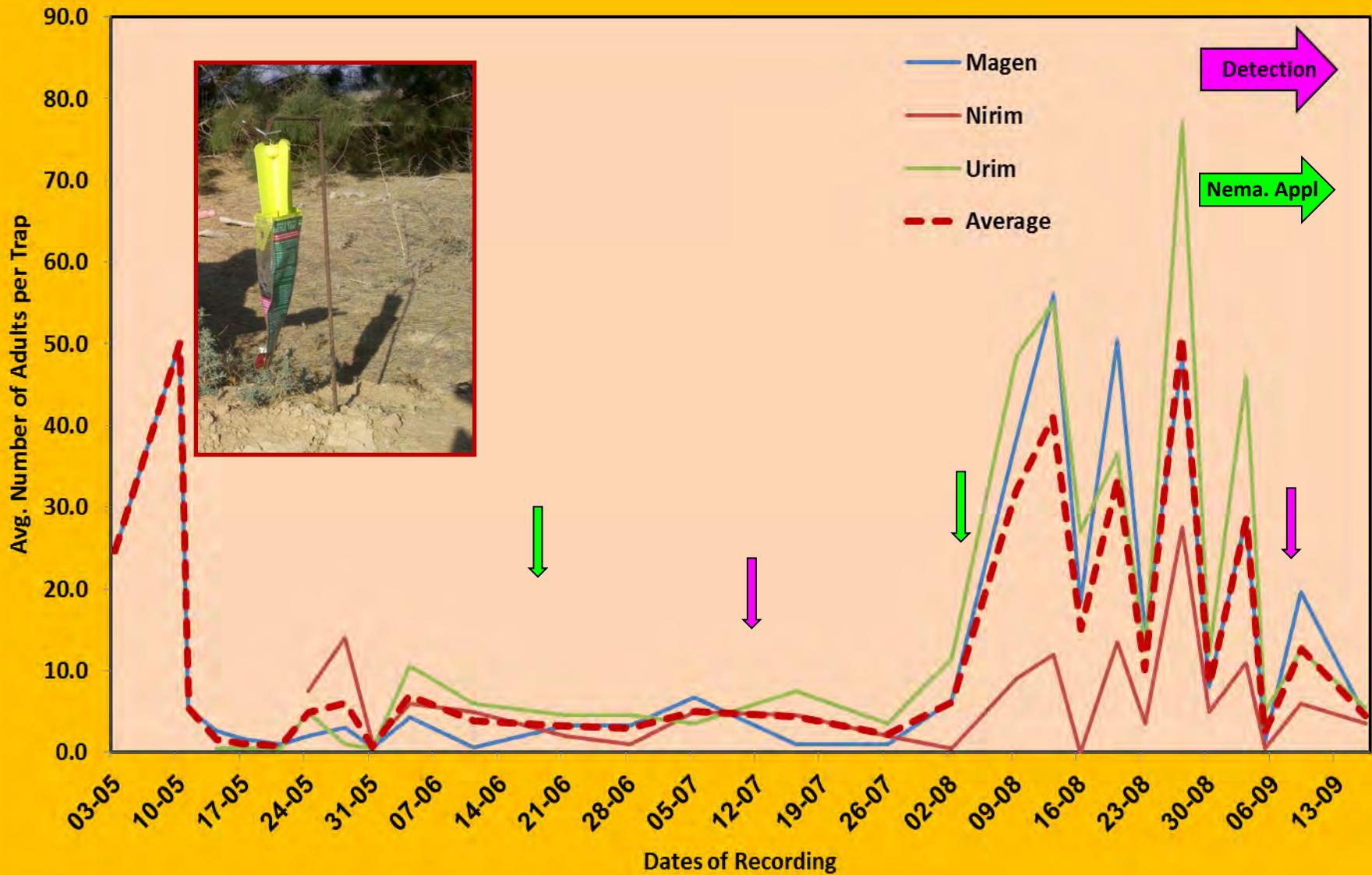
# Injection system



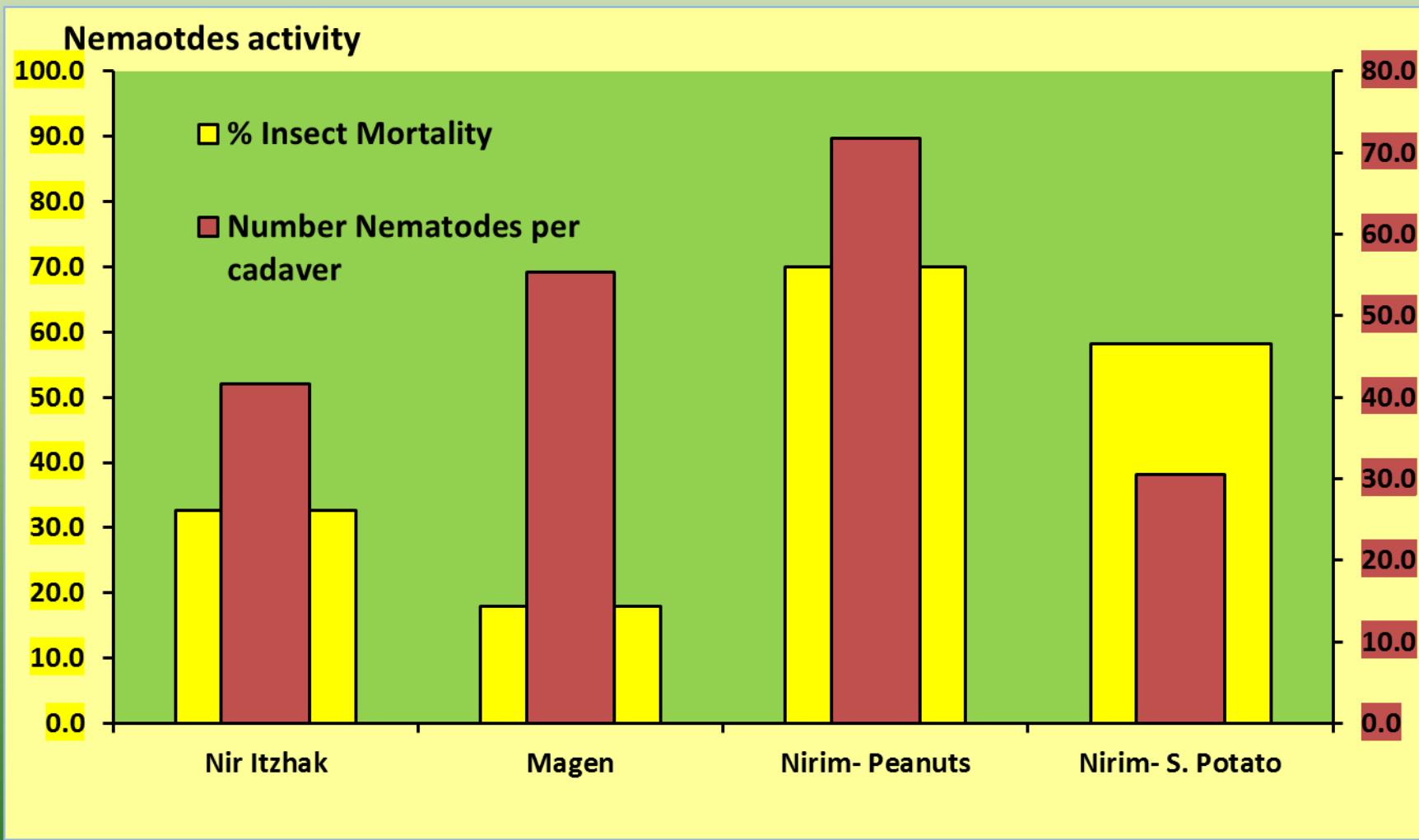
# Spraying equipment



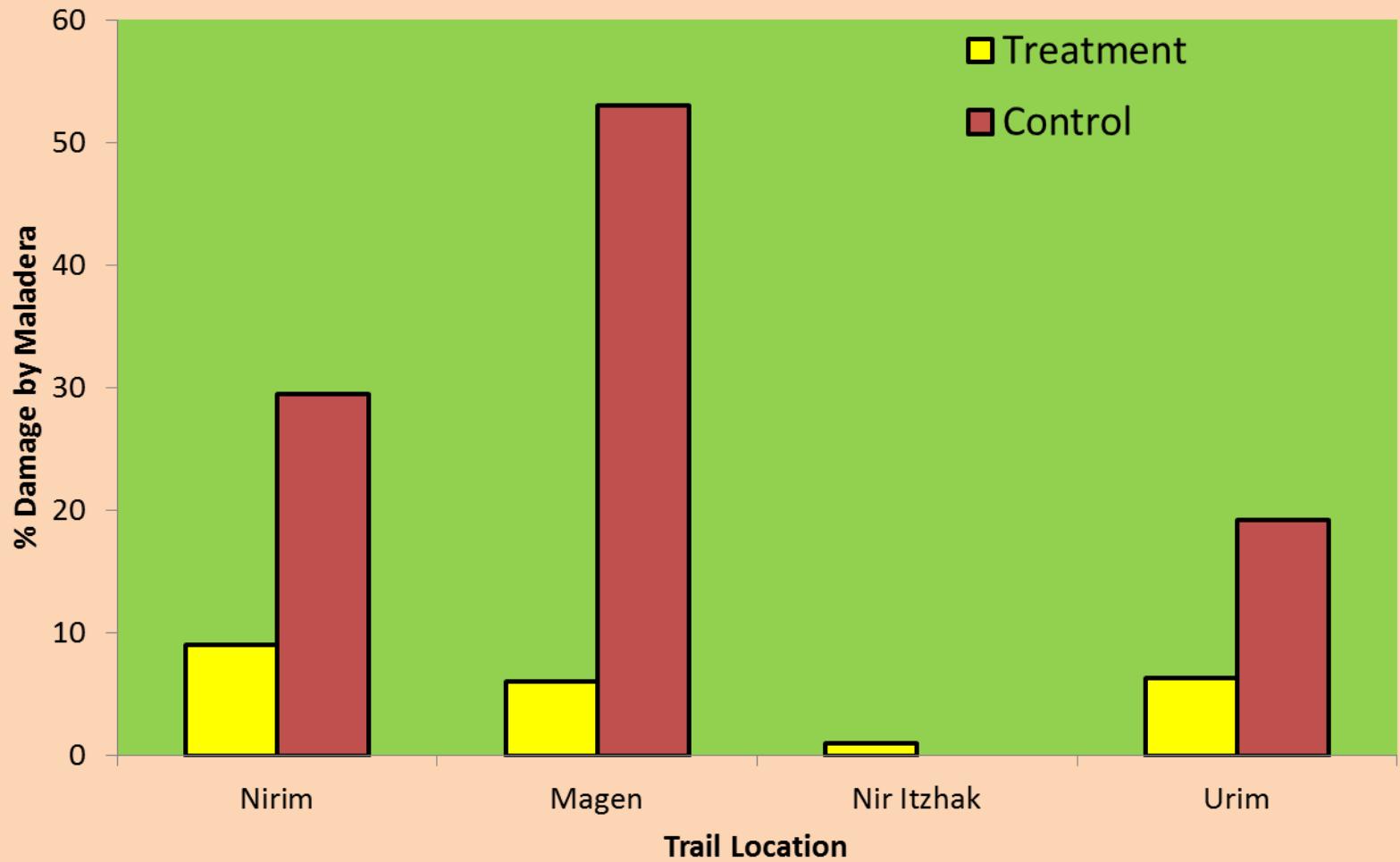
# Application Schedule



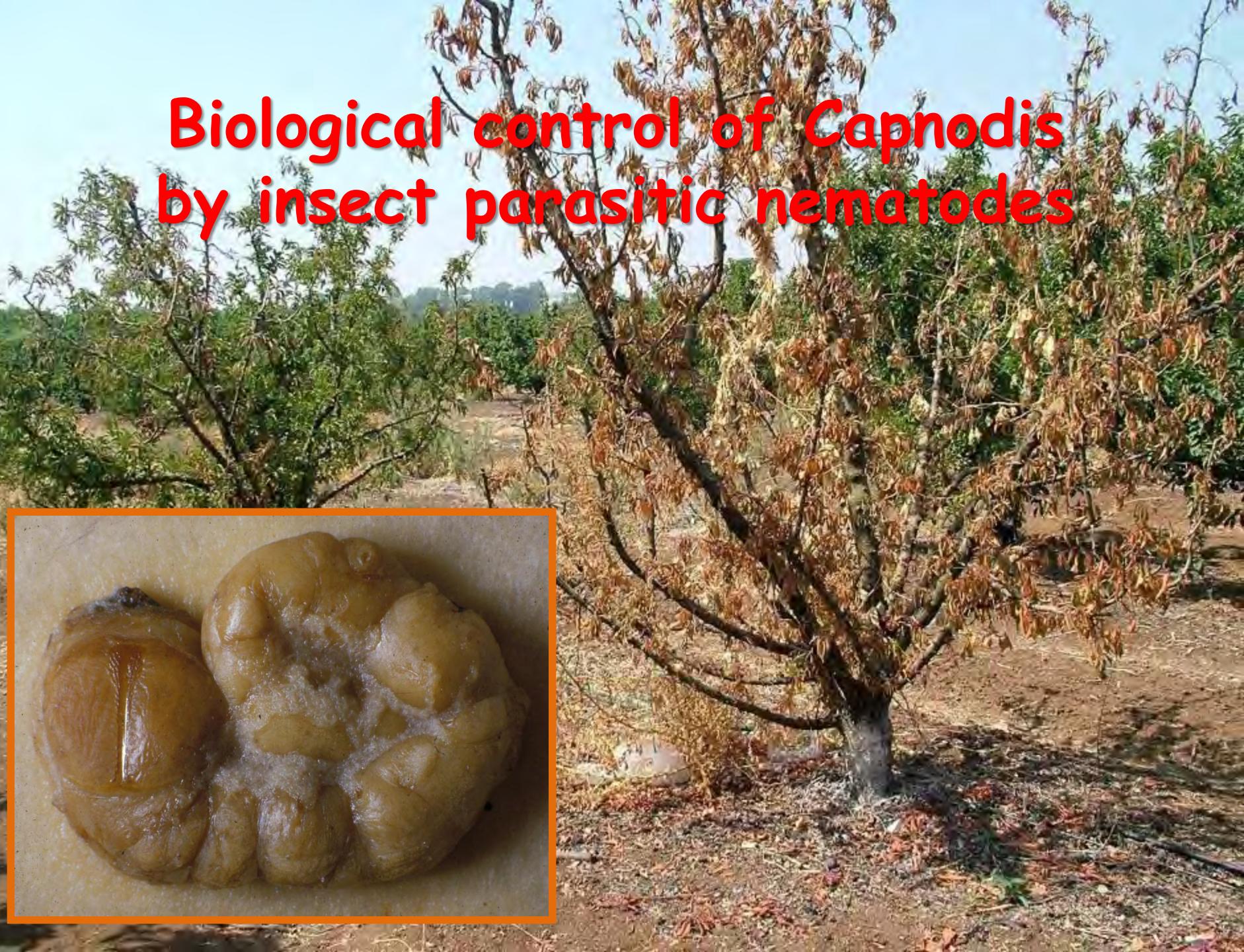
# Nematode activity in soil



# Damage of the pest



# Biological control of Capnodis by insect parasitic nematodes



## Rearing Capnodis Adults



## Planting Apricot Trees



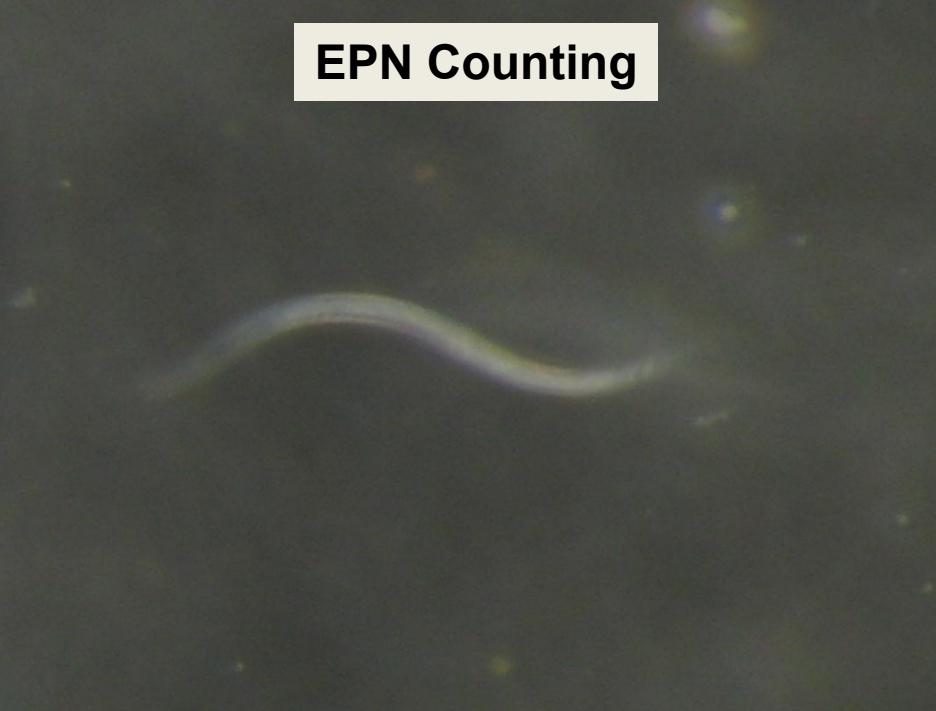
## Release of fertilized Capnodis adults in net house



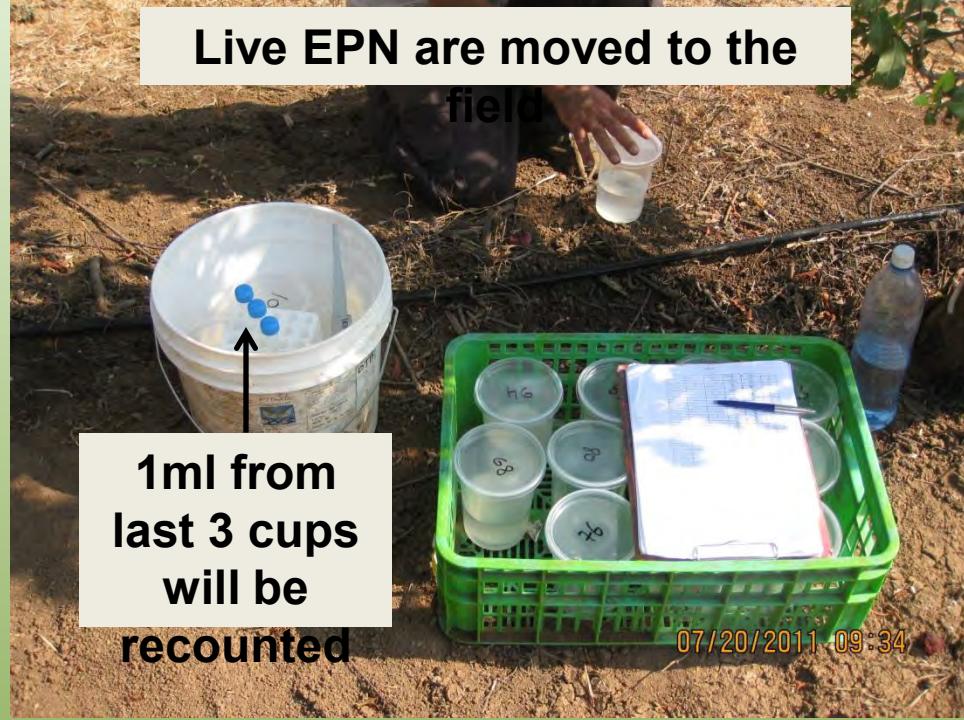
## Capnodis adults leave the cage independently



## EPN Counting



Live EPN are moved to the field



1ml from  
last 3 cups  
will be  
recounted



EPN Applied  
by drenching  
trunk



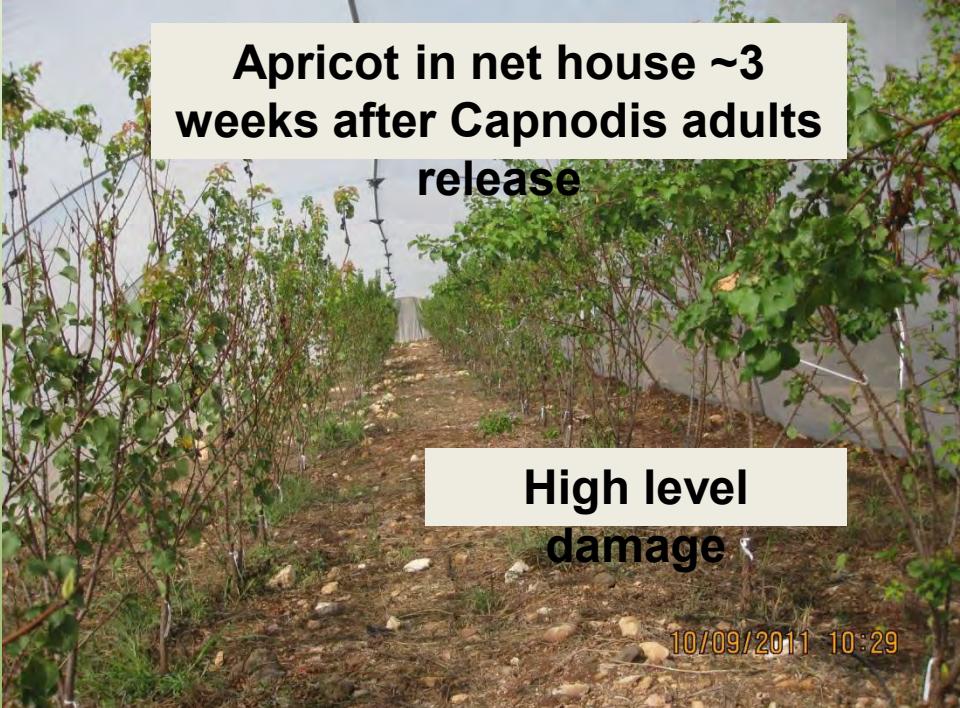
07/24/2011 08:17

07/24/2011 08:20

Apricot in net house  
before Capnodis adults  
release



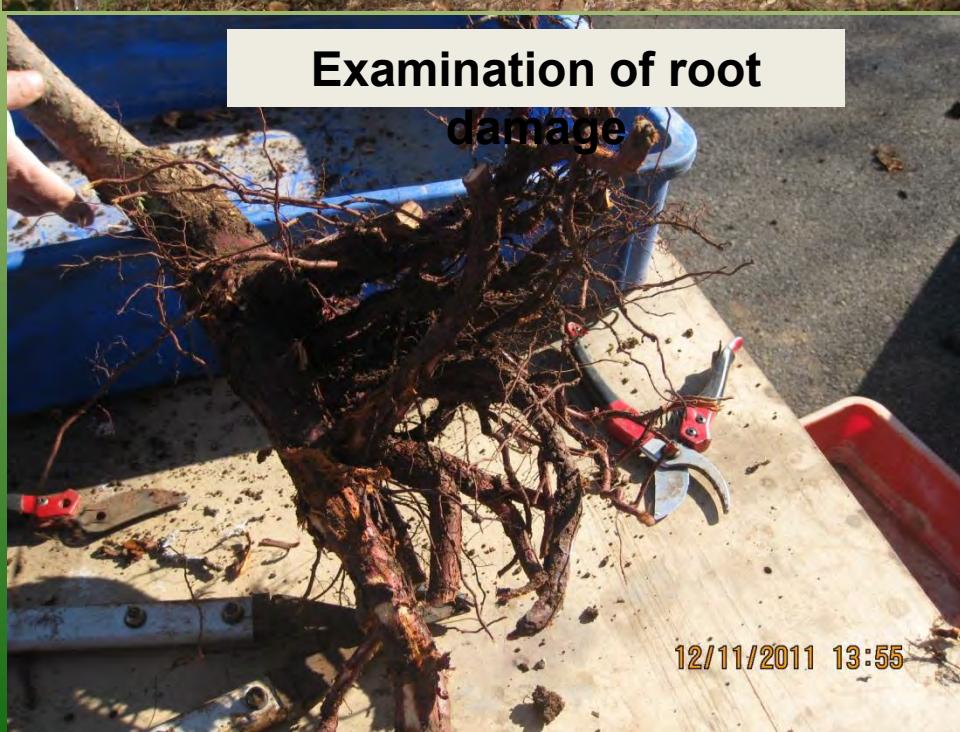
Apricot in net house ~3  
weeks after Capnodis adults  
release



Removal of all apricot  
trees 6-8 month after trt.  
applied



Examination of root  
damage



EPN applied ( $3 \times 10^6$ . Jul -Sep.  
2011)

in commercial plum infected  
orchard



Soil sample 0-20 cm deep  
every 2 weeks after EPN  
applied

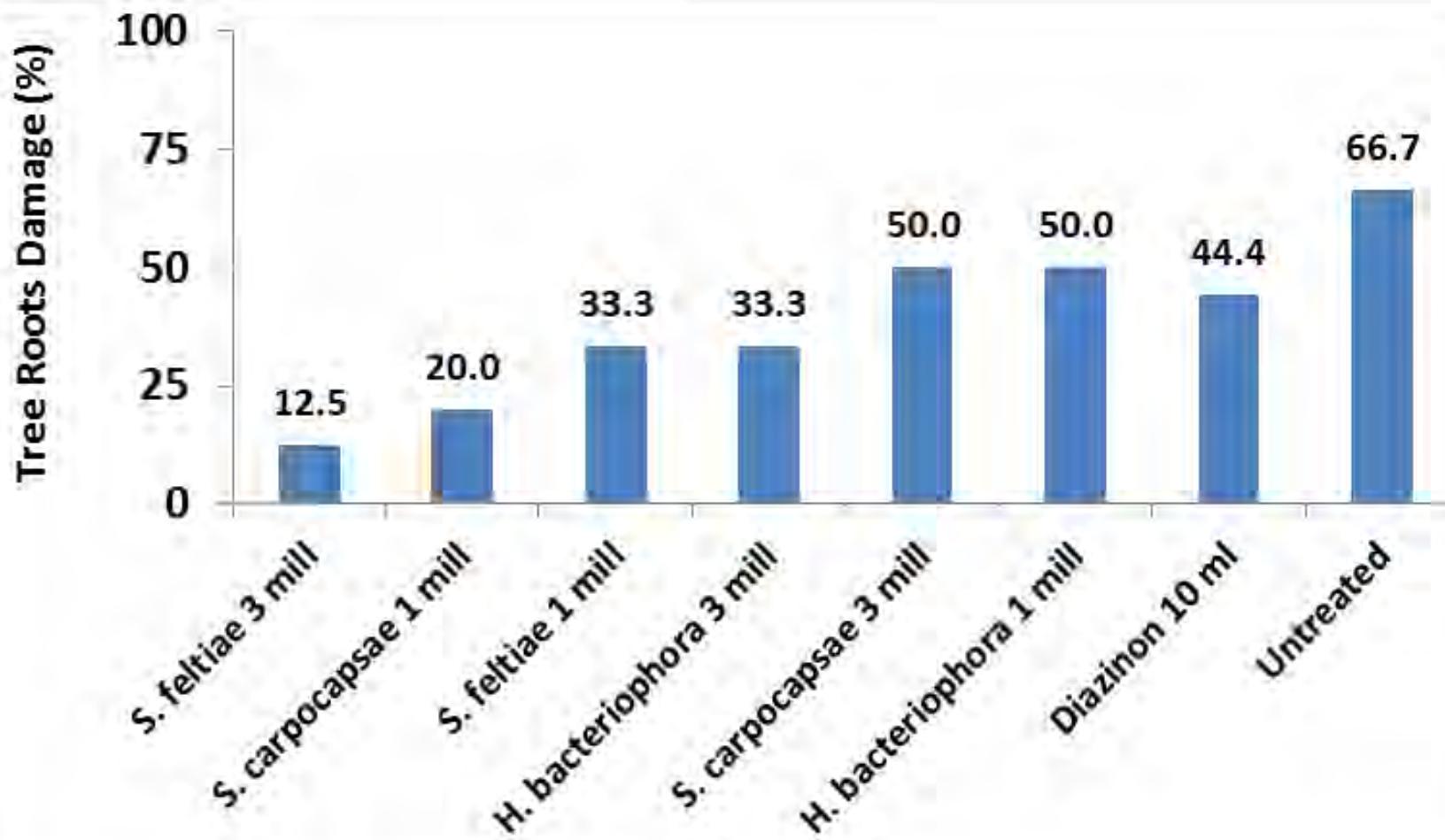


EPN application through drip  
irrigation

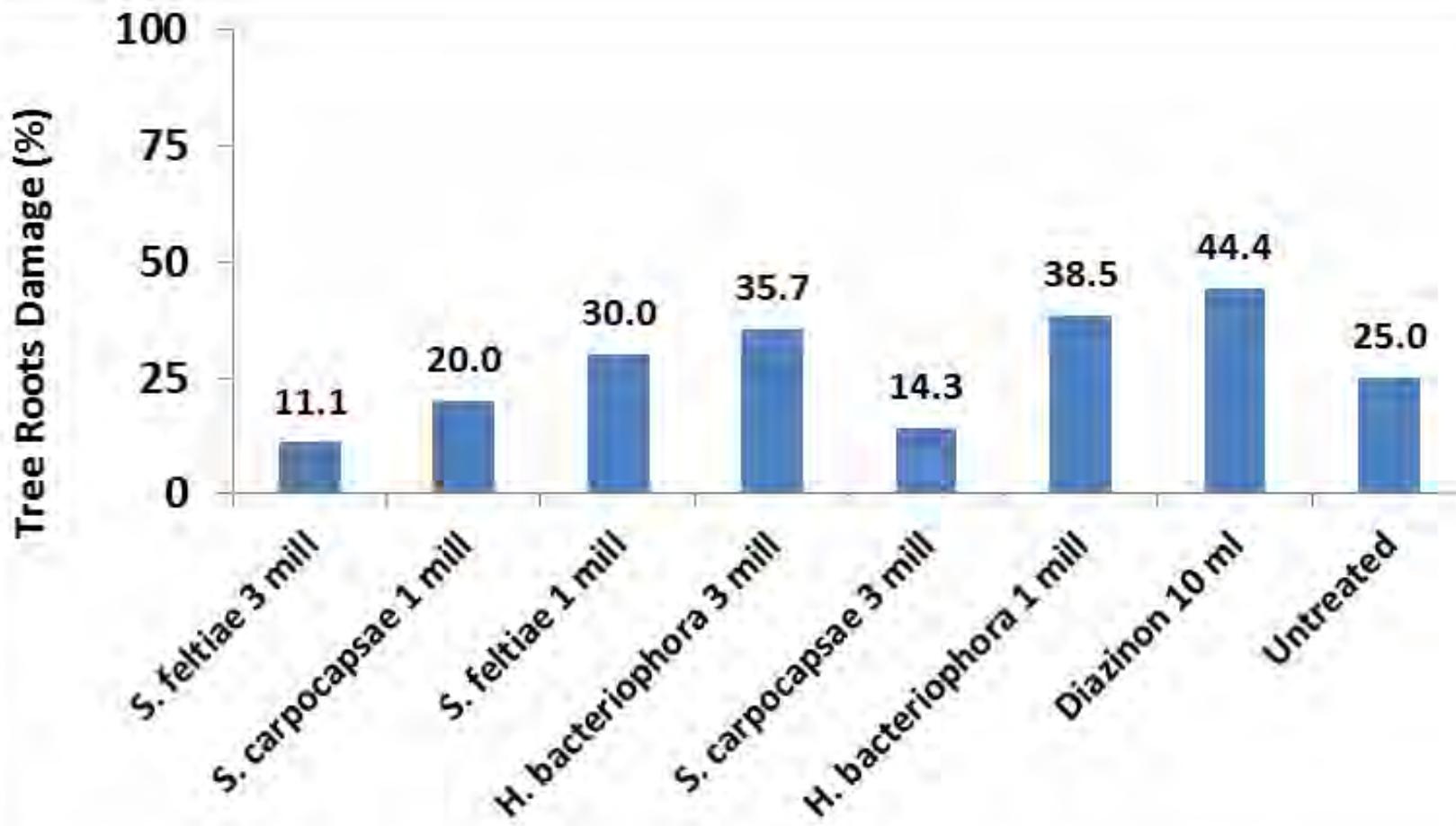




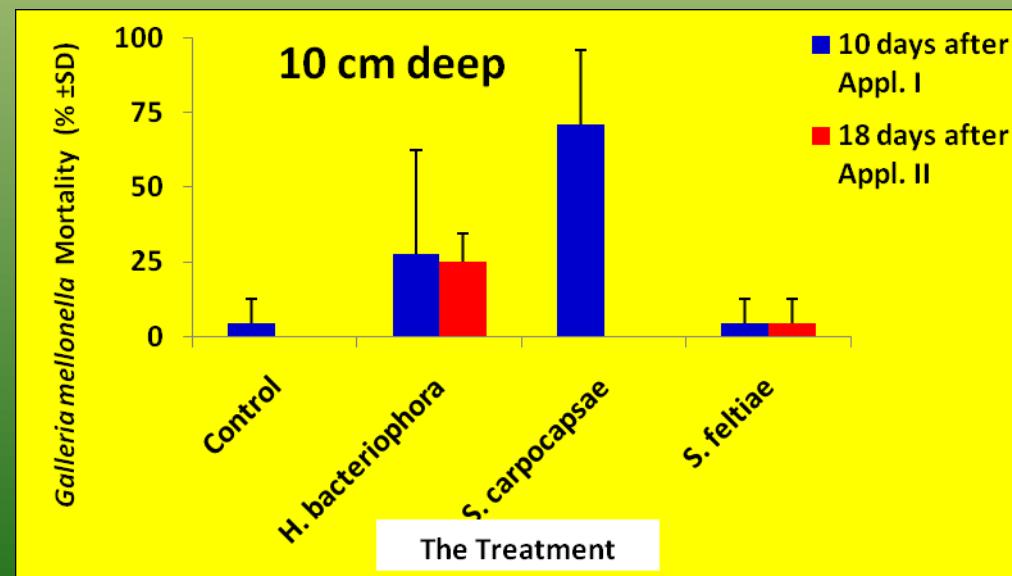
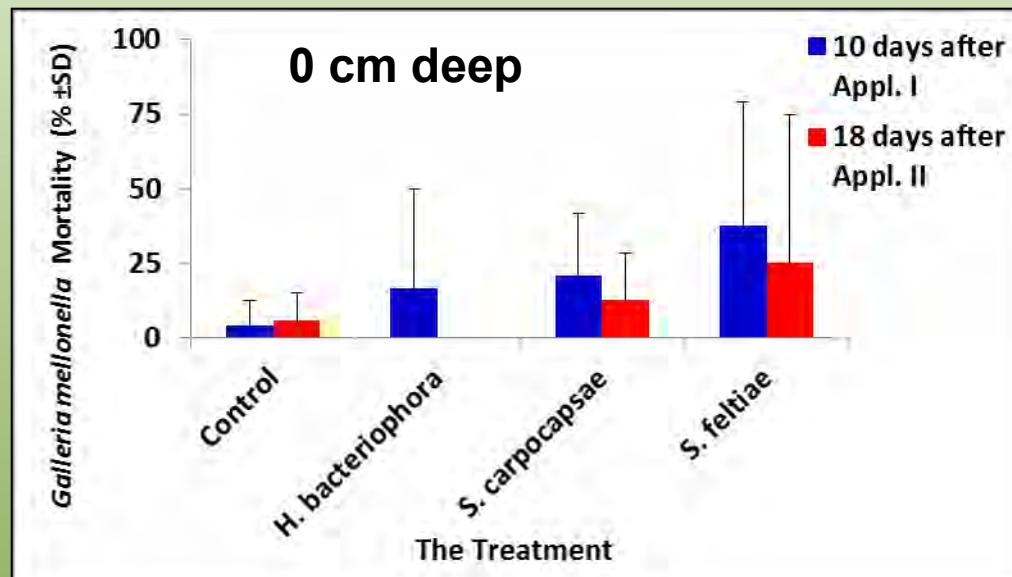
## Results of Exp. 1



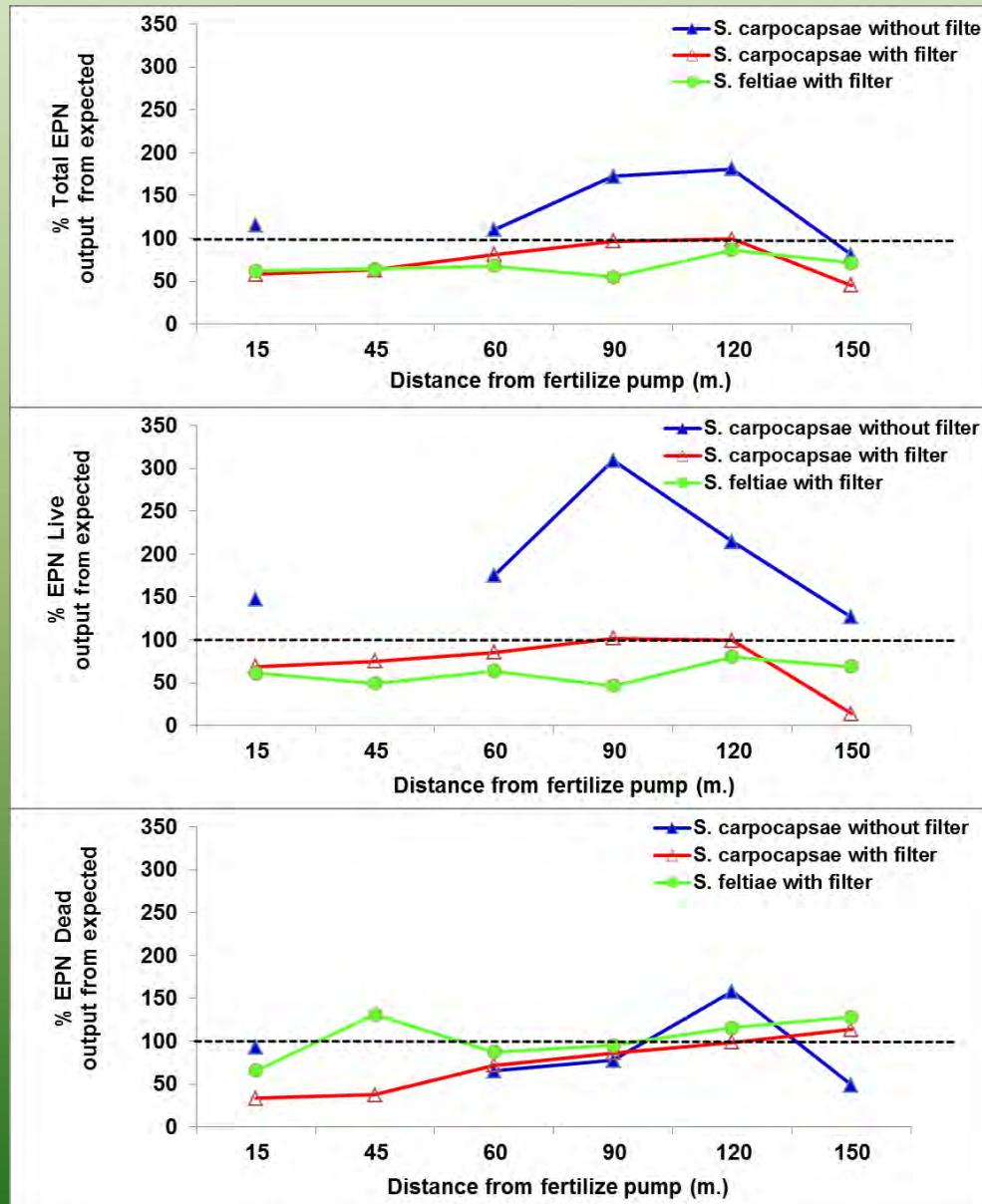
## Results of Exp. 2



## Results of EPN persistence in soil sample



## EPN output from drip irrigation



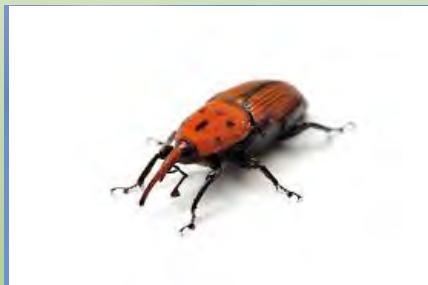
# Use of EPN *Steinernema carpocapsae* (Sc-e) and *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* (Hb-e) against the Red Palm weevil (*Rhynchophorus* *ferrugineus*)

The Red Palm Weevil is a major  
pest of Date-Palms trees



It bores in the trunk and kill  
trees

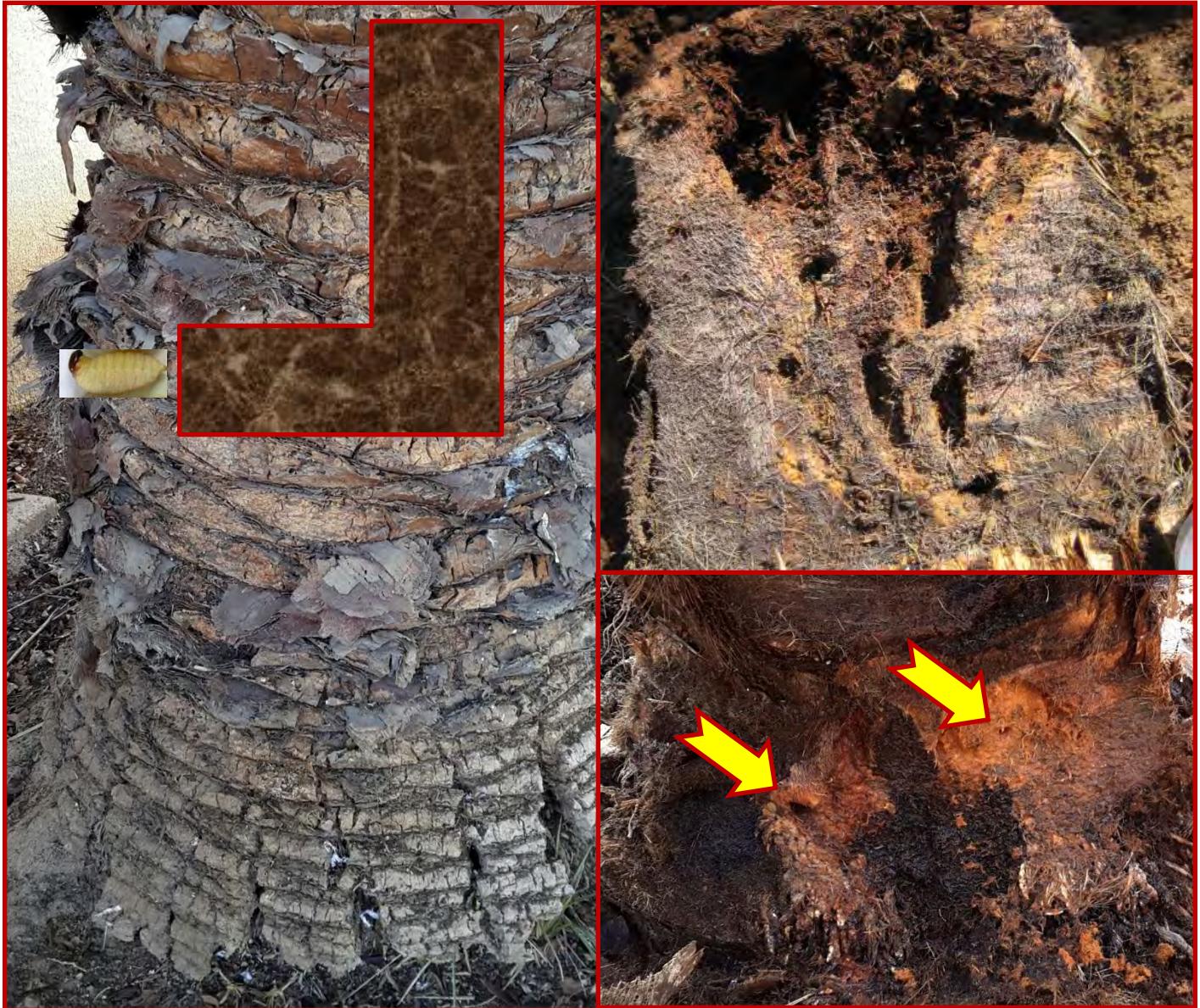
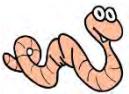
# Damage to trees





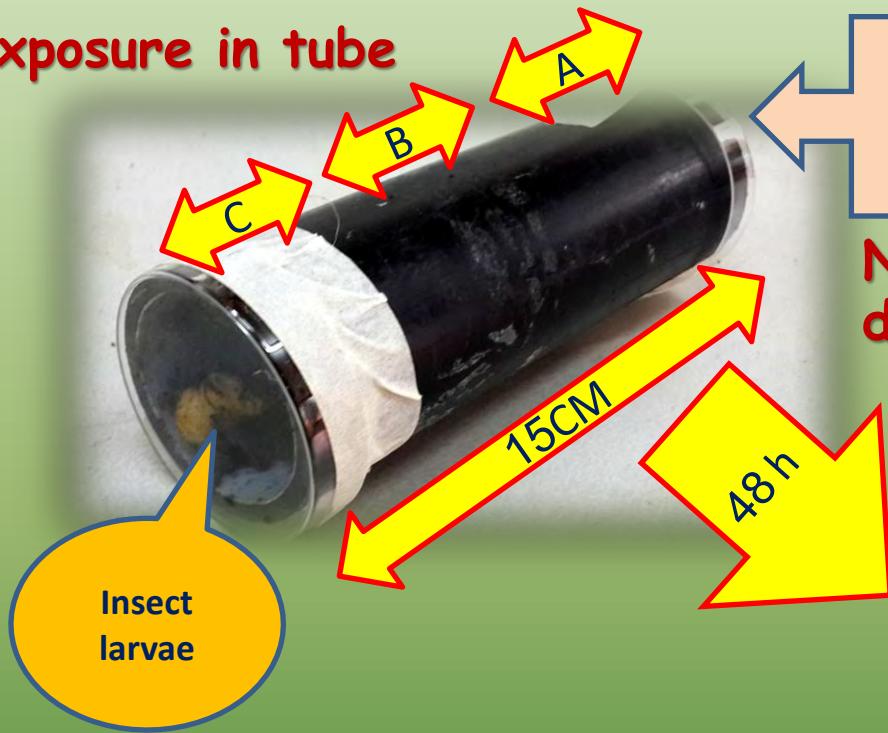


# Insect Larvae Movement in the Trunk



# Experimental system for characterization of nematode movement toward the insect

Exposure in tube

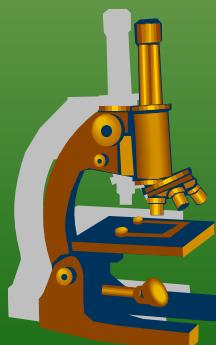


Nematodes  
(10,000)

Nematode extraction from  
different section of tube



Nematode counting



24 h

# Attraction of EPNs to Palm weevil at 25°C

Horizontal



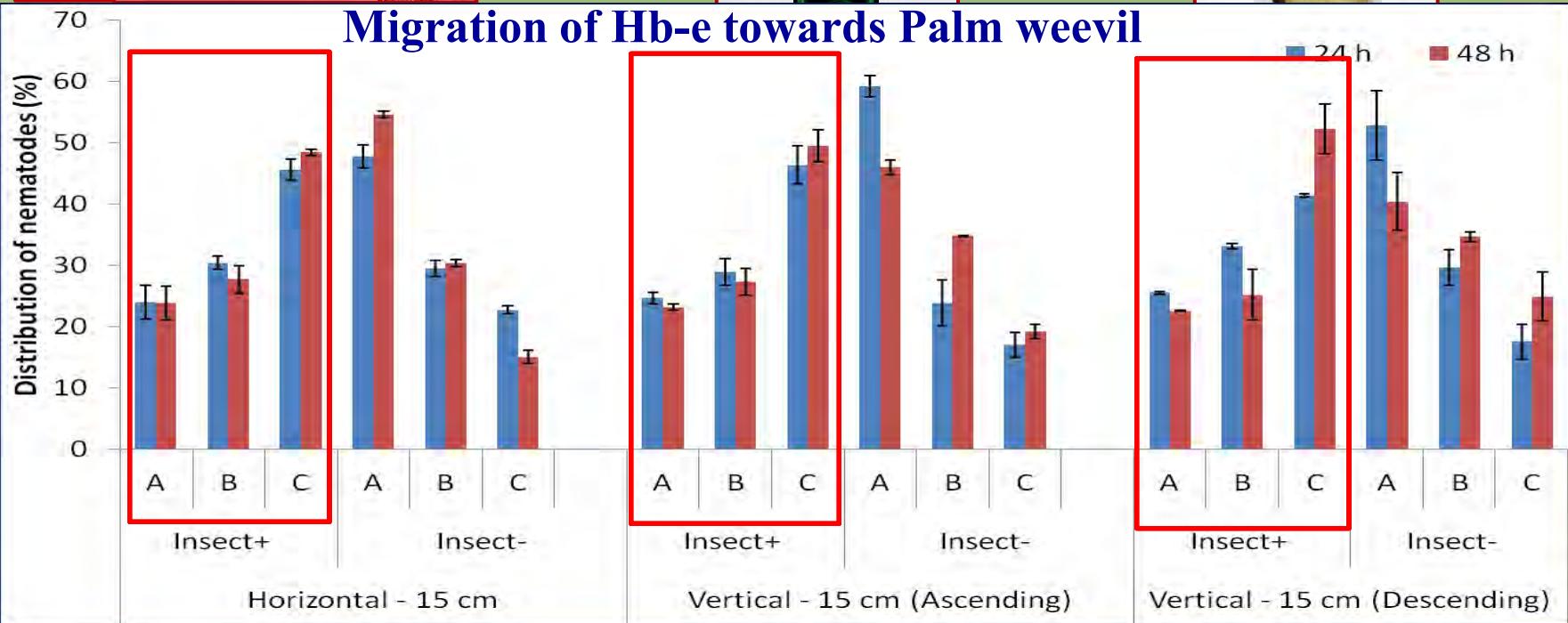
Vertical – 15 cm  
(Ascending)



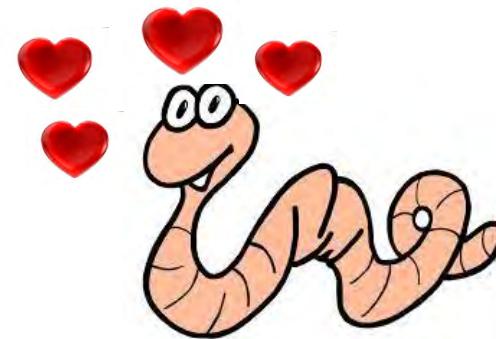
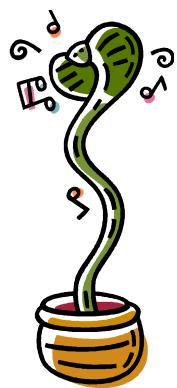
Vertical – 15 cm  
(Descending)



## Migration of Hb-e towards Palm weevil



# Effect of insect voices on EPNs behavior



# Detection of insect noises in the field

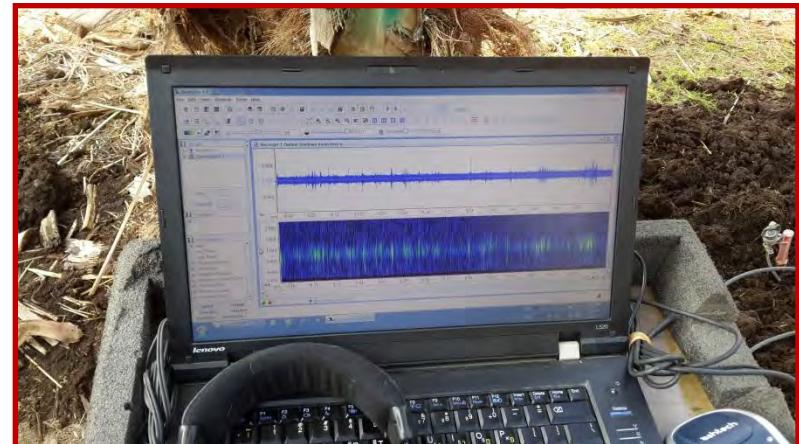
The Red Palm Weevil is a major pest of Date-Palm trees



It bores in the trunk and kill trees



We recorded the noises made by the feeding insects

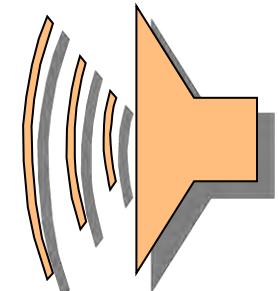
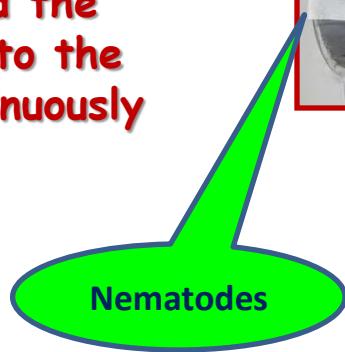




We built a device  
with a speaker that  
can be attached to  
the column

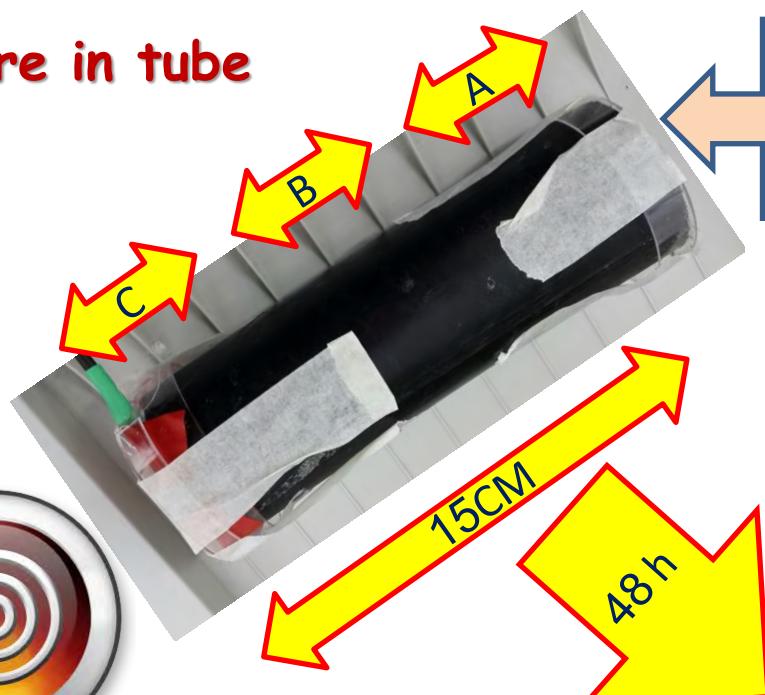


We exposed the  
nematodes to the  
noises continuously  
for 48 h



## Modification for evaluation of noise effect

Exposure in tube

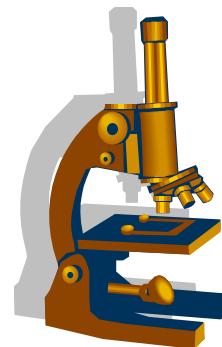


Nematodes  
(20,000)

Nematode extraction from  
different section of tube

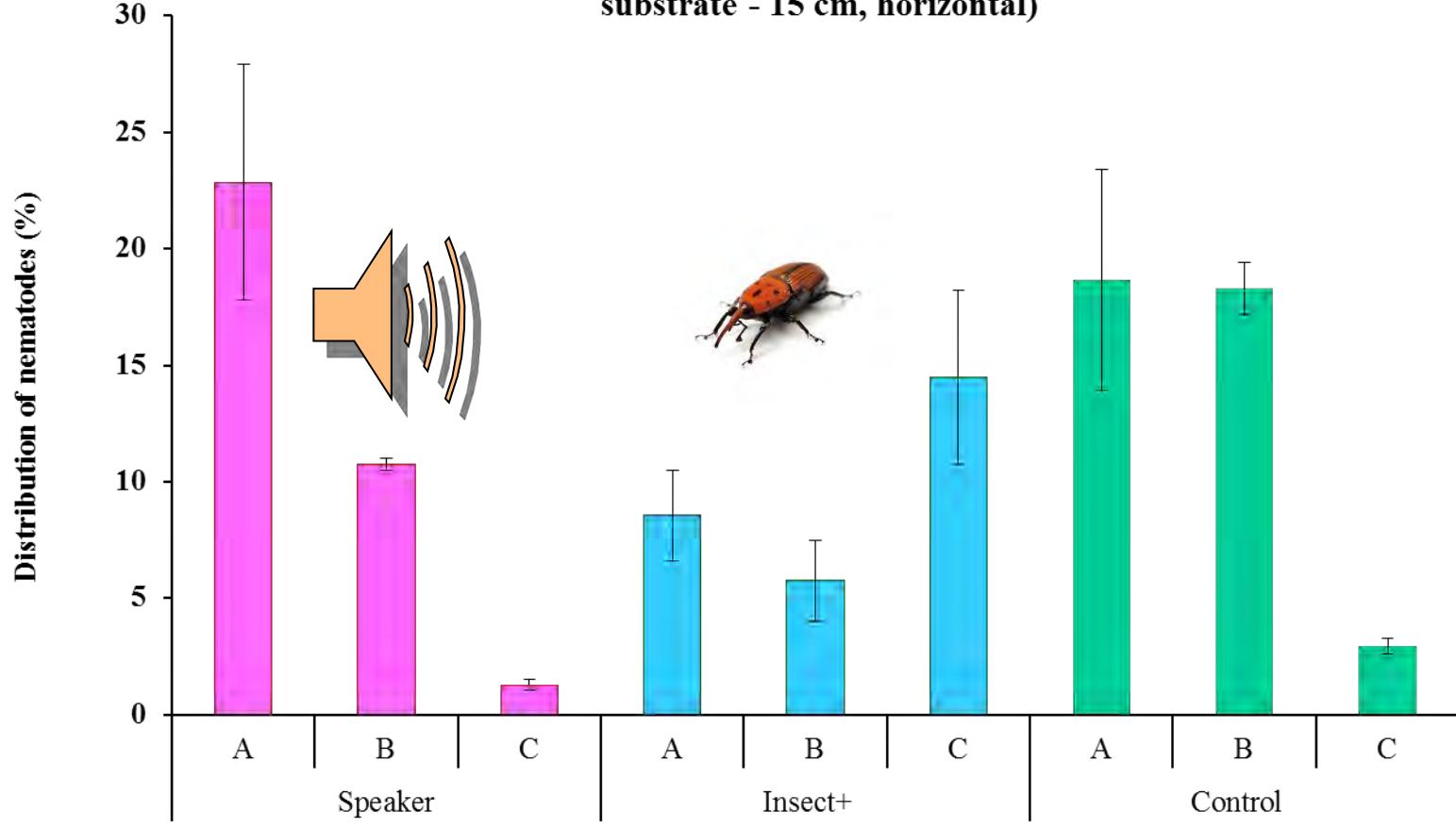


Nematode counting



24 h

**Speaker : Migration of Sc-e towards Palm weevil at 25°C in 48 h (In coconut substrate - 15 cm, horizontal)**

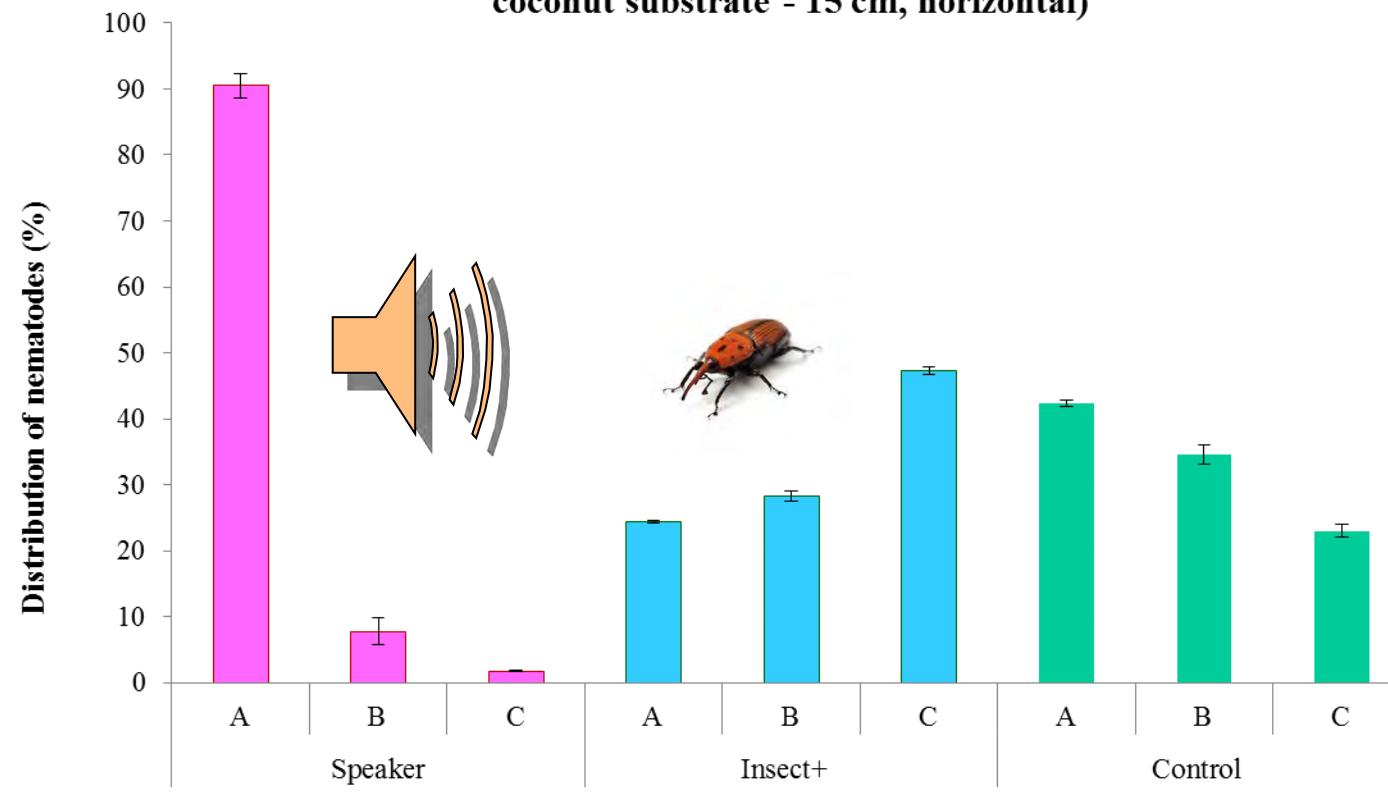


Nematodes exposed to speaker are repelled by the noise

Nematodes exposed to insects are attracted to it

Non-exposed nematodes distribute arbitrarily

**Speaker : Migration of Hb-e towards Palm weevil at 25°C in 48 h (In coconut substrate - 15 cm, horizontal)**



Nematodes exposed to speaker are repelled by the noise

Nematodes exposed to insects are attracted to it

Non-exposed nematodes distribute arbitrarily

# Thanks to



*Maladera materida*

ARO- D. Ben-Yakir  
Liora Salame

Growers Org.-  
O. Buchshtev  
Y. Yafe

BioBee-  
S. Steinberg  
Tz. Bar  
A. Alouch



Red Palm Weevil

ARO- V. Soroker  
L. Salame  
S. V. Santhi

BioBee-  
S. Steinberg  
Tz. Bar  
G. Yaakobi

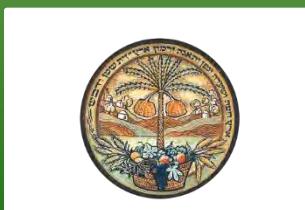


*Capnodis tenebionis*

ARO- Z. Mendel  
Liora Salame

Growers Org.-  
H. Reuveni

BioBee-  
S. Steinberg  
Tz. Bar  
A. Alouch



ARO



Peanut Growers Org.



Chief Scientist MOAG

A photograph of a field filled with red and yellow flowers, likely poppies and dandelions, growing in green grass. The flowers are scattered across the frame, creating a pattern of red and yellow dots. A thin yellow border surrounds the image, and the background is a solid dark green.

Thank you  
for kind  
attention