

# SEX PHEROMONES FOR MONITORING POPULATIONS OF *HELIOTHIS ARMIGERA*

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*Heliothis armigera*, *H. virescens* and *H. zea* are serious crop pests in many countries. For optimal catches of these moths in field traps, Z-11-hexadecenal – the main component of the sex

pheromone in all *Heliothis* species studies so far — is needed in combination with one or more other components. A synthetic pheromone mixture of *H. zea* is attractive to *H. armigera*, while that of *H. virescens* is inhibitory due to the presence of Z-9-tetradecenal and Z-11-hexadecenol. Traps baited with rubber septa impregnated with 2 mg of a mixture of Z-11-hexadecenal and Z-9-hexadecenal (97:3) plus 0.2 mg of an antioxidant, are currently used to monitor populations of *H. armigera* in cotton fields in Israel.