

## Research Note

### SAMPLING HYDRELLIA WIRTHI KORYTKOWSKI WITH STICKY TRAPS<sup>1</sup>

*Hydrellia wirthi*, a rice leaf miner, is a sporadic but occasionally important pest of rice in Colombia<sup>2,3</sup>. In scouting for *H. wirthi*, farmers use two methods: sweep nets and egg counts. Egg count is time consuming and because of the patchy distribution it may provide inaccurate estimates of the infestation rate. Furthermore, many fly species are caught in the nets; thus identification and counting is difficult.

In this work we studied *H. wirthi* flying patterns and the use of clear acrylic boards with sticky trap to sample the pest. Acrylic boards (1 m<sup>2</sup>) were placed upright at water level in 10-day rice broadcasted at 150 kg of seed/ha. The boards were attached to two wooden stakes driven into the mud until the lower surface of the acrylic board touched the water. Boards were inspected every 2 hours for 5 consecutive days. The number and the position of *H. wirthi* adults on the board was recorded. Flight height was measured from the water surface. Sampling started at 06:15 and continued till 16:15 hours; the boards were then replaced and left all night (16:30 to 06:00 hours).

The greater flight activity was observed between 06:00 and 10:00 hours

with an average of 10.5 insects per square meter. Flight height during the morning hours was calculated to be 10 cm from the water surface. Flight height increased to 13 cm by 13:00 hours, but only five adults per square meter were collected at this time of the day.

Although sticky acrylic boards were effective in collecting *H. wirthi*, the technique was time consuming. The small insect size combined with the difficulties of handling the glue makes identification even harder. However, the information gathered in this study will benefit field personnel and farmers scouting for *H. wirthi*. Sampling should be done in the morning hours as adults are more active during that period of the day. Additional studies are needed to identify a more efficient sampling technique.

Alberto Pantaja  
Amparo Salazar  
Rice Program  
Centro Internacional de  
Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)  
A.A. 6713,  
Cali, Colombia, South America

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<sup>2</sup>Weber, G.J. Gibbons and K. Eichelkraut, 1988. Manejo de *Hydrellia* spp. Arroz en las Américas. 9(12):11-14.

<sup>3</sup>Salazar, A., 1991. Manejo Cultural y Aspectos Ecológicos del Minador del Arroz, *Hydrellia wirthi* Korytkowski. Tesis Universidad Nacional, Palmire, Colombia.