

**European Pepper Moth (EPM)  
Technical Working Group  
Conference Call  
September 1, 2011 (1:00 – 2:10 pm; EDT)**

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**Participants:**

Lance Osborne (Co-Chair, TWG)  
Jim Bethke (Co-Chair, TWG)  
Julieta Brambila (APHIS-PPQ)  
Surendra Dara (UC Co-op Extension)  
Dan Gilrein (Cornell Co-op Extension)  
Amanda Hodges (FL – SPDN Associate Director)  
Jim Hayden (FL-DPI)  
Stephanie Stocks (UF)  
David Riley (UGA)  
Hugh Smith (UF)  
Steve Tjosvold (UCCE)  
Lin Schmale, (Chair, ILG)  
Diane Schuble (APHIS-PPQ, EPM Task Force Coordinator)

**Discussion:** Lance began the discussion by confirming that everyone has read the SPRO Letter and is aware that APHIS has deregulated EPM. This decision was made in concurrence with the National Plant Board. Most issues relating to the TWG are now resolved, but Lance is still waiting for approval from FL DPI to start his own colony. Amanda said she is waiting to hear about funding and is meanwhile focusing on education.

The discussion turned to the email Julieta shared from the researcher in the Netherlands and how EPM has impacted greenhouses there. The irony is that if detritus is present, EPM feeds on that, but if the plants are clean, EPM attacks the plants. No one is aware of any work done on preferences of this sort but Jim H is going to research pyralid studies. The question was raised to clarify categorizing EPM as a greenhouse pest and Lance said he would speak to his contact at the University in the Netherlands for follow up. Stephanie reported on studies that EPM is found in the environment in northern Europe in the summer months but dies off in the winter. It is not characterized as problematic. Steve said it is well established outside in San Diego, and mentioned that there is no diapause or hibernation documented in this organism. Jim B expressed surprise since that is a critical piece.

Jim B reviewed the Research Priorities document he sent before the call. They are merely listed, not yet weighted and he seeks the group's input as to how they should be addressed. He went through Control, Life History, Detection, Biological Control, and Host Preference topics. It was noted for Life History that EPM's biology in CA vs FL should be examined. A highlight of the Detection section was noting that using the *Duponchelia* hormone in a water pan trap is a highly effective sampling method. In the Host Preferences discussion, the point was

raised that the level of EPM's preference for detritus may have an important impact on how difficult EPM may be to manage. The question was posed if mating disruption should also be explored and Lance said yes, as well as examining types of soil remnants in a detritus study. Amanda and Stephanie will add the priorities they developed to Jim B's document and Lance asked the group to then look at that and weight them, considering if there is funding. Stephanie agreed with Jim B that there may be a diapause in action that has not been observed, especially considering observations in Italy. Jim B said temperature studies will reveal this. Overall, the power point Stephanie sent addresses a lot of material Jim B is seeking. Slide 14 has pesticide information and Slide 15 Biological control organisms. (Everyone agreed that power point was tops!)

Jim B then reviewed his first draft of the BMP. He is seeking an economic section and will ask Rob Ahern for help. Again, Stephanie & Amanda's power point has a lot of material, particularly the Table of Pesticides, regulatory information and photos, which is useful for the BMP. The Prevention and Exclusion section will rely on Steve's LBAM work. Does anyone have any contributions for the Degree Days section? Jim B also wants to include ID images lookalikes by region in both adult and larval stages.

**Subgroup formation:** The leaders of the subgroups will organize the material and obtain cooperators both from within the task force and outside. Speak to Lance for clarification of the role. For **Survey and Diagnostics** – Jim H and Julieta (Lance & Jim B will participate). **Biology and Ecology** – Steve and Jim B. **Education** – Dan and Stephanie (Amanda & Surendra will participate.) **Management** – Surendra and Hugh. Any of the TWG may participate in any or all subgroups.

**Closing discussion:** David is planning survey in GA and will contact colleagues in Europe for guidance. Julieta provided David info on CAPS survey done in GA. Amanda also suggested contacting Rob Meaghar and Gary Lieby. Hugh asked if there is any more literature or anecdotal info available. Stephanie spoke of her contacts in Italy and the Netherlands and that there is probably a lot of unpublished info to tap. She will put out the word that this group is seeking it. Lance spoke of a list server GOODBUGS in Europe. Graeme may have more info.

**Next steps:** Diane will work on getting the Inter-agency group formed. Then the IL group can have a call. The TWG will meet again after those things.

**Other:** During the call, Julieta emailed Diane to request group contact info for easy communication. As a result, Diane is sending around a worksheet with contact and subject matter info for everyone's convenience.