



BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF OIL PALM INSECT PESTS IN INDONESIA

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 **19th**
International
OIL PALM
Conference

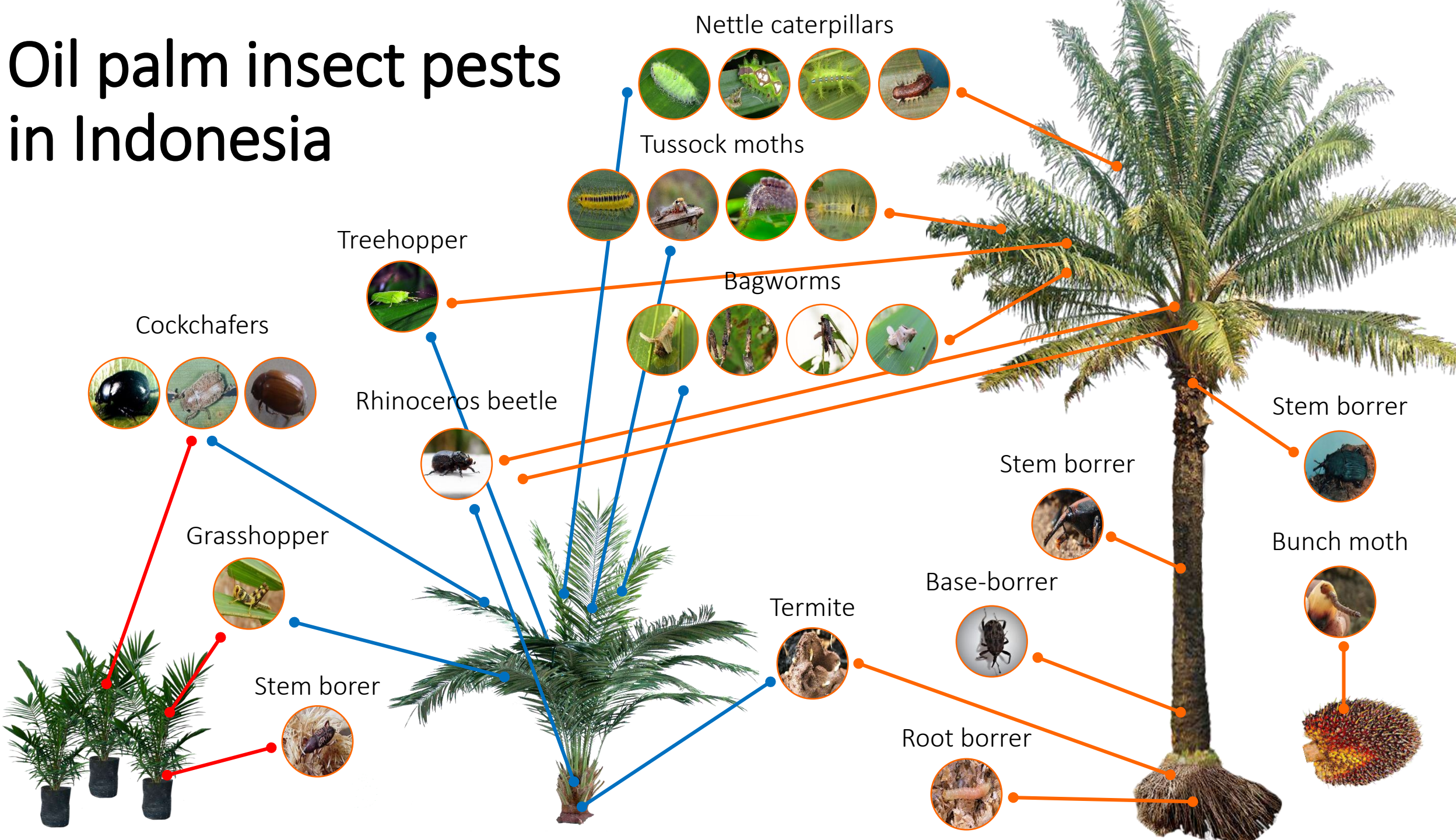
INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

IN OIL PALM

nourishing people and protecting the planet

September 26th, 27th, and 28th 2018
Cartagena de Indias Convention Center, Colombia

Oil palm insect pests in Indonesia



Nettle caterpillars



Tussock moths



Treehopper



Bagworms



Cockchafers



Rhinoceros beetle



Stem borer



Stem borer



Grasshopper



Bunch moth



Termite



Base-borer



Stem borer



Root borer





Insect pests control

- Insecticide application
- Drawbacks:
 - Kills beneficial insects
 - Trigger resistance to target pest
 - Pests resurgence

Insect pest resurgence



2012

Outbreak of *Pseudoresia desmierdechenoni* in area where recurring attacks of *Setothosea asigna* often occur



A turning point to biological control in Indonesia



- Mandatory implementation of the Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil regulation by the government
- Implementation of IPM for pests management emphasizing biological control as the first alternative

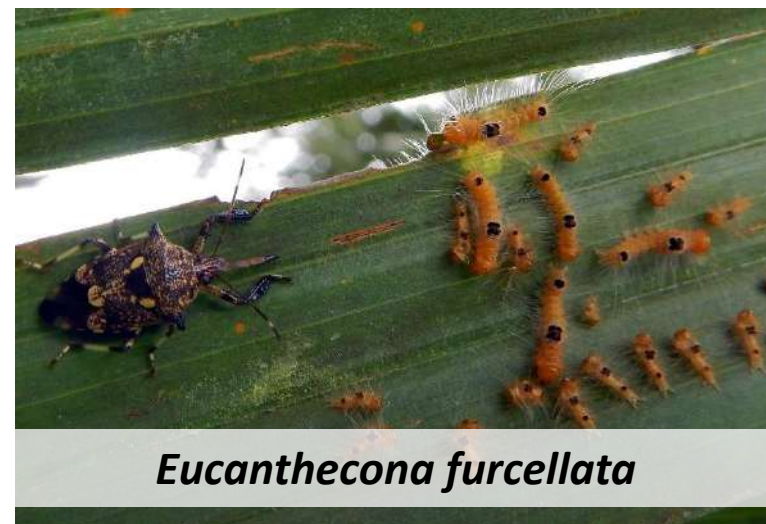
First choice in IPM of insect pests



- Biological control
 - Predators & parasitoids
 - Entomopathogenic fungi
 - Viruses
 - Bacteria
 - Entomopathogenic nematodes
- Ecofriendly product
 - Insect pheromones

Predators of leaf-eating caterpillar

Predator	Prey	Stadia
<i>Sycanus</i> sp.	Nettle caterpillar, bagworm, tussock moth	Larvae
<i>Cosmolestes</i> sp.	Nettle caterpillar, bagworm, tussock moth	Larvae
<i>Eucanthecona</i> sp.	Nettle caterpillar and tussock moth	Larvae and moth
<i>Callimerus</i> sp.	Nettle caterpillar and bagworm	Larvae



Parasitoids of leaf-eating caterpillars

Parasitoids	Host	Stadia
<i>Trichogrammatoidea thoseae</i>	<i>S. asigna</i> , <i>S. nitens</i>	Eggs
<i>Brachymeria lasus</i>	<i>M. plana</i> , <i>Clania tertia</i>	Larvae
<i>Fornicia ceylonica</i>	<i>S. asigna</i> , <i>S. nitens</i>	Larvae
<i>Spinaria spinator</i>	<i>S. nitens</i>	Larvae
<i>Apanteles aluella</i>	<i>D. trima</i>	Larvae
<i>A. metisae</i>	<i>M. plana</i> , <i>M. corbetti</i>	Larvae
<i>Chlorocryptus purpuratus</i>	<i>S. asigna</i>	Larvae & Pupae
<i>Chaetexorista javana</i>	<i>S. asigna</i> , <i>S. nitens</i>	Larvae & Pupae



Enhancing the role of predators and parasitoids



- Restoring or maintaining weedy strips increase predator occurrences as well as predation rates

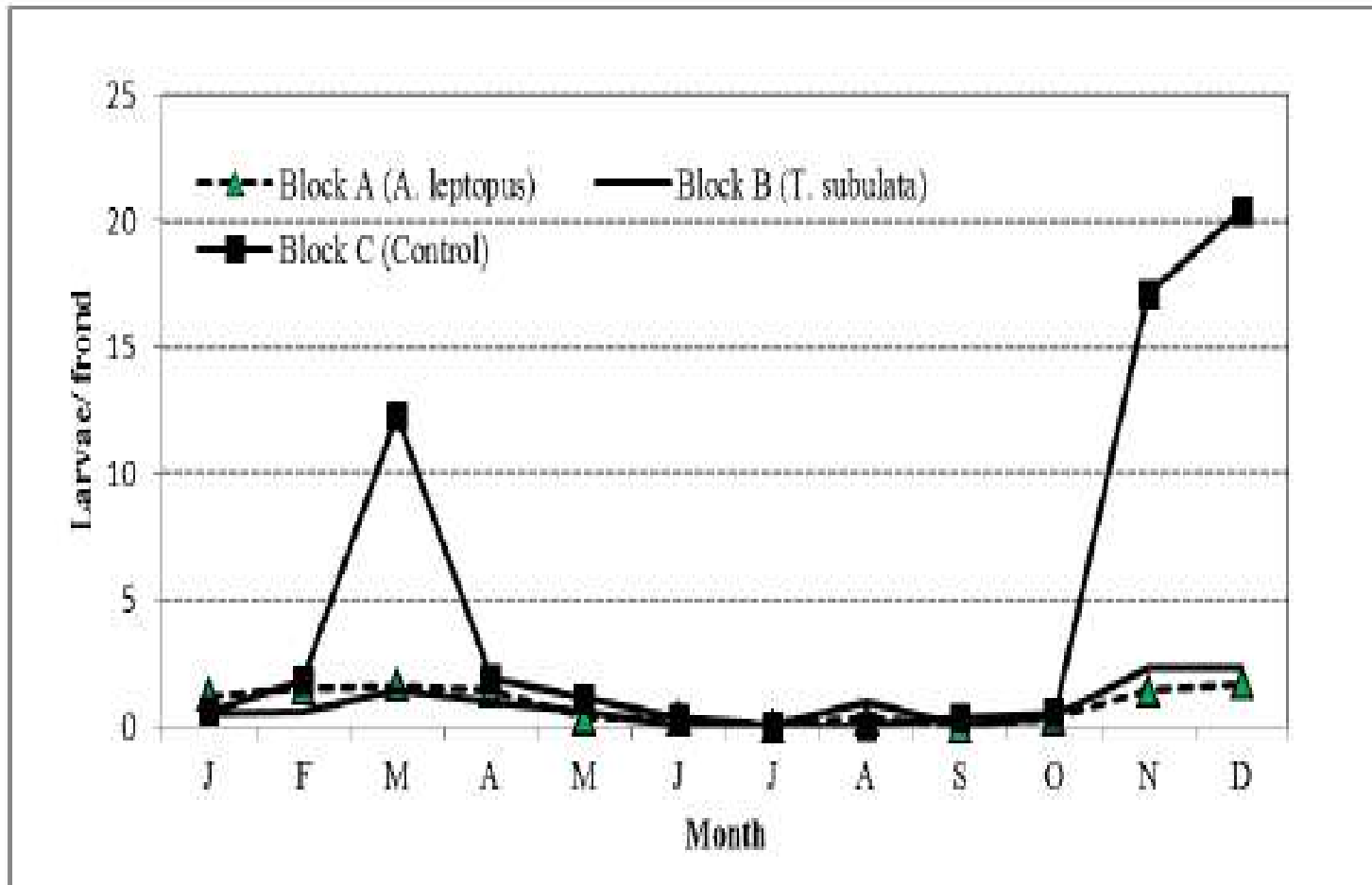
Enhancing the role of predators and parasitoids

The abundance of natural enemies in planting block

Flowering plant	Average insect/plant	Total number of insect
Block A (<i>A. leptopus</i>)	5.5 ± 0.77 a	250.3 a
Block B (<i>T. subulata</i>)	5.0 ± 0.57 a	227.0 a
Block C (Control)	0.6 ± 0.10 b	28.5 b

Increasing vegetation diversity by introducing flowering plants such as *Turnera subulata* or *Antigonon leptopus* increase beneficial insect visitation in the block

Enhancing the role of predators and parasitoids



Outbreak of *S. asigna* occurs twice in block without flowering plant introduction

◀ The population dynamics of *Setothosea asigna* in Gunung Melayu Estate in 2015

Beneficial plants for natural enemies



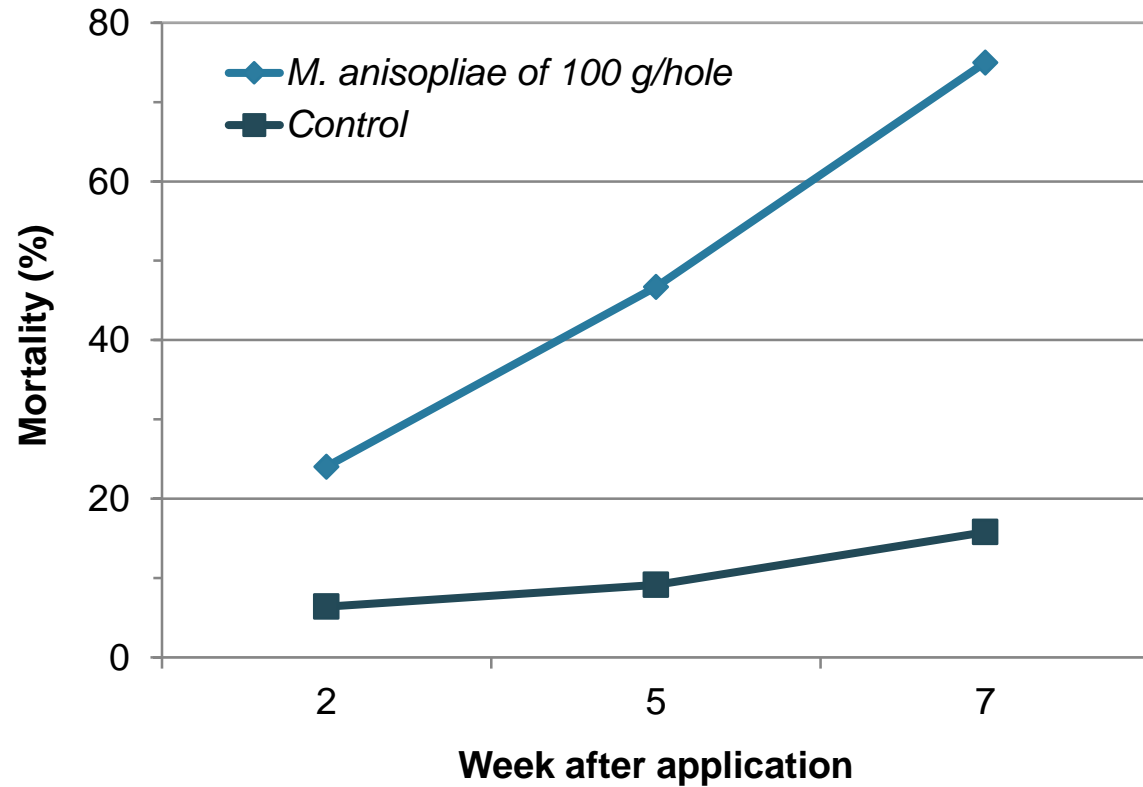
Entomopathogenic Fungi – *Metarhizium anisopliae*



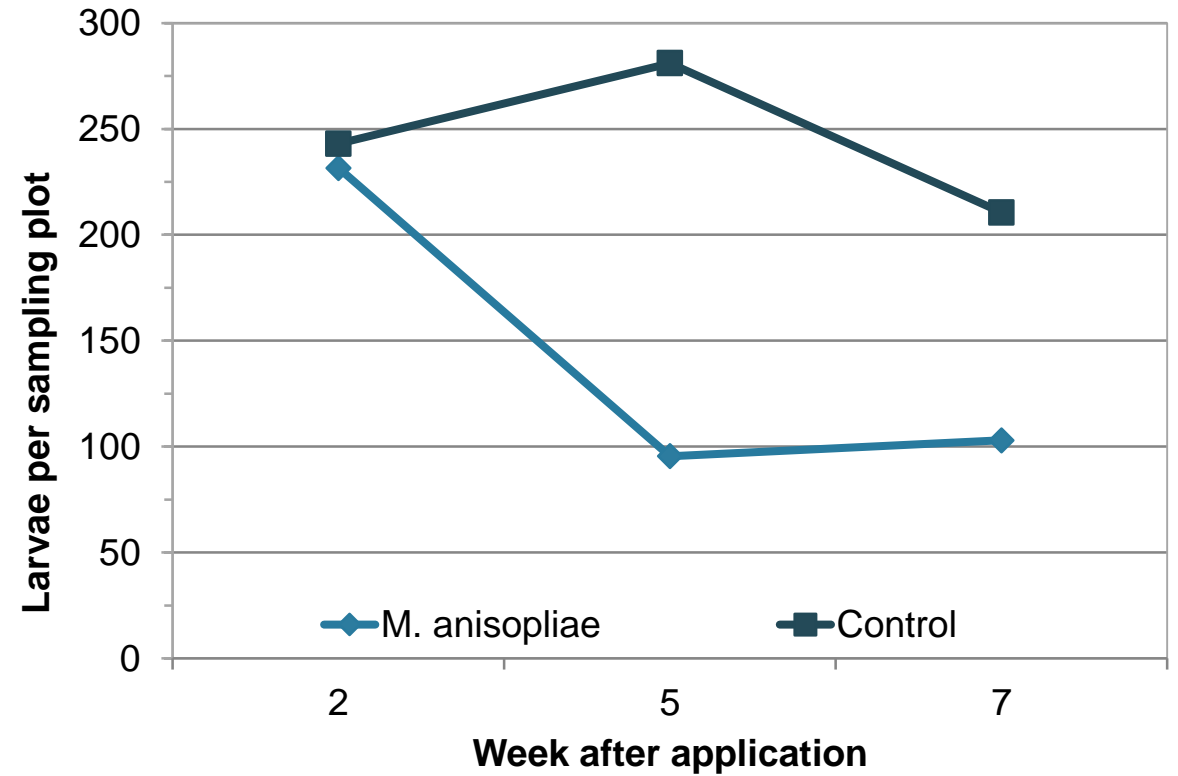
- The most widely studied
- Highly pathogenic to *O. rhinoceros* larvae
- Commercial formulation is available

▲
Development of *M. anisopliae* on
O. rhinoceros larvae

Large scale field application



▲ *M. Anisopliae* application reduces 70% population of *Oryctes* larvae in Teluk Dalam Estate, Riau Province



▲ *M. Anisopliae* application reduces 50% population of *Oryctes* larvae in Gunung Bayu Estae, North Sumatra

In peatland oil palm plantation



- Abundant source of organic matters
- Larvae often found in the inter row
- Need more targeted approach!

Organic trap!

Integration with other methods



- Organic trap (EFB, *M. anisopliae*, pherotrapp) in peatland plantation
- Improves beetle's trapping
 - Lures beetles to lay eggs in the trap



M. anisopliae vs termite

Coptotermes curvignathus

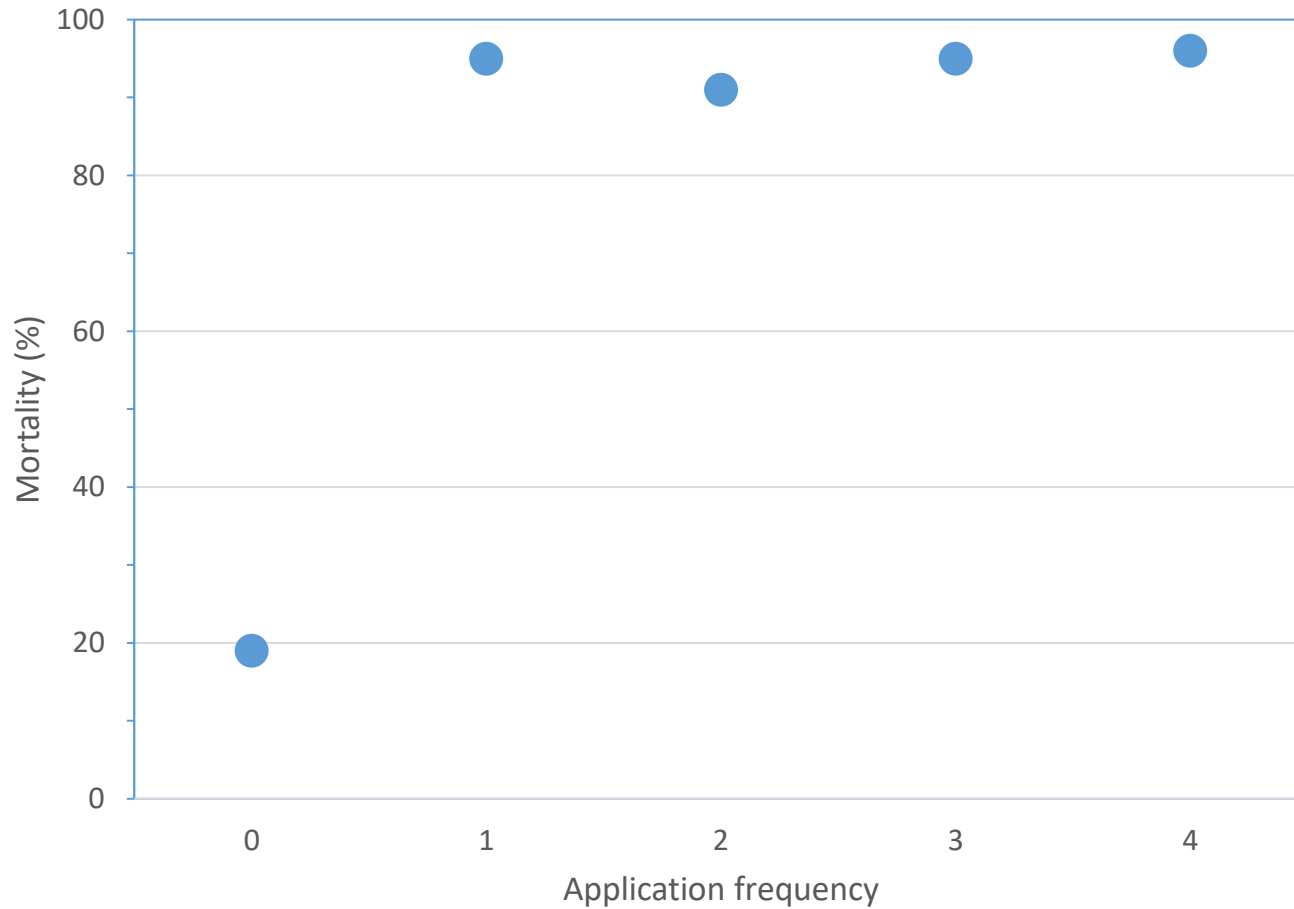
- Major pest in peatland plantations
- Attacks immature and mature palms
- Direct application of *M. anisopliae* on soil is not effective
- Need trapping!

Mixture of *M. anisopliae* - EFB Compost



Application of mixture *M. anisopliae* - EFB compost on oil palm circle

Mixture of *M. anisopliae* - EFB Compost



- High mortality on worker and soldier
- BUT the queen is not affected

◀ Mortality of *C. curvignathus* at 5 weeks after pre-mixed *M. anisopliae* – EFB compost application

Another approach: Termite baiting system



Entomopathogenic Fungi – *Beauveria bassiana*



▲ Infection of *B. bassiana* on nettle caterpillar, *Darna trima*

- Wide host range yet unpopular in oil palm in Indonesia
- Highly pathogenic to nettle caterpillar
- Causes 100% mortality of *Darna trima* in green house
- Causes 43.3% mortality on *Setothosea asigna*

Entomopathogenic Fungi – *Cordyceps militaris*



- Narrow host range
- Less studied
- Mass application in 1990s
- Pupae infection ranged from 40% - 80%

◀ Infection of *C. militaris* on nettle caterpillar pupae, *S. asigna*

Viruses

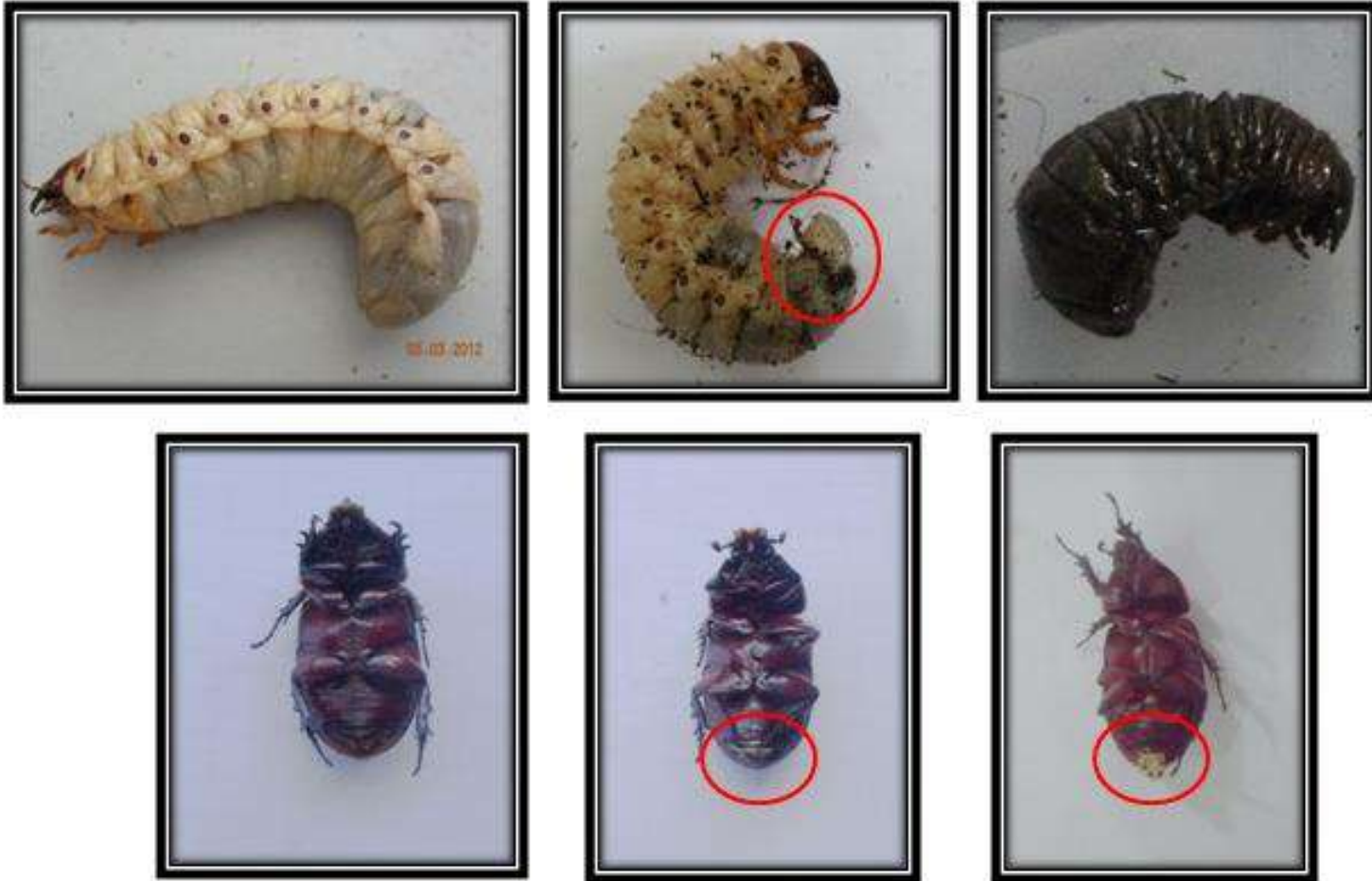
Host specific:

- *Oryctes* nudivirus (OrNV),
- *S. asigna* nuclear polyhedrosis virus (SaNPV),
- *Setora nitens* NPV (SnNPV)



▲ *S. nitens* larvae infected by SnNPV

Oryctes nudivirus (OrNV)

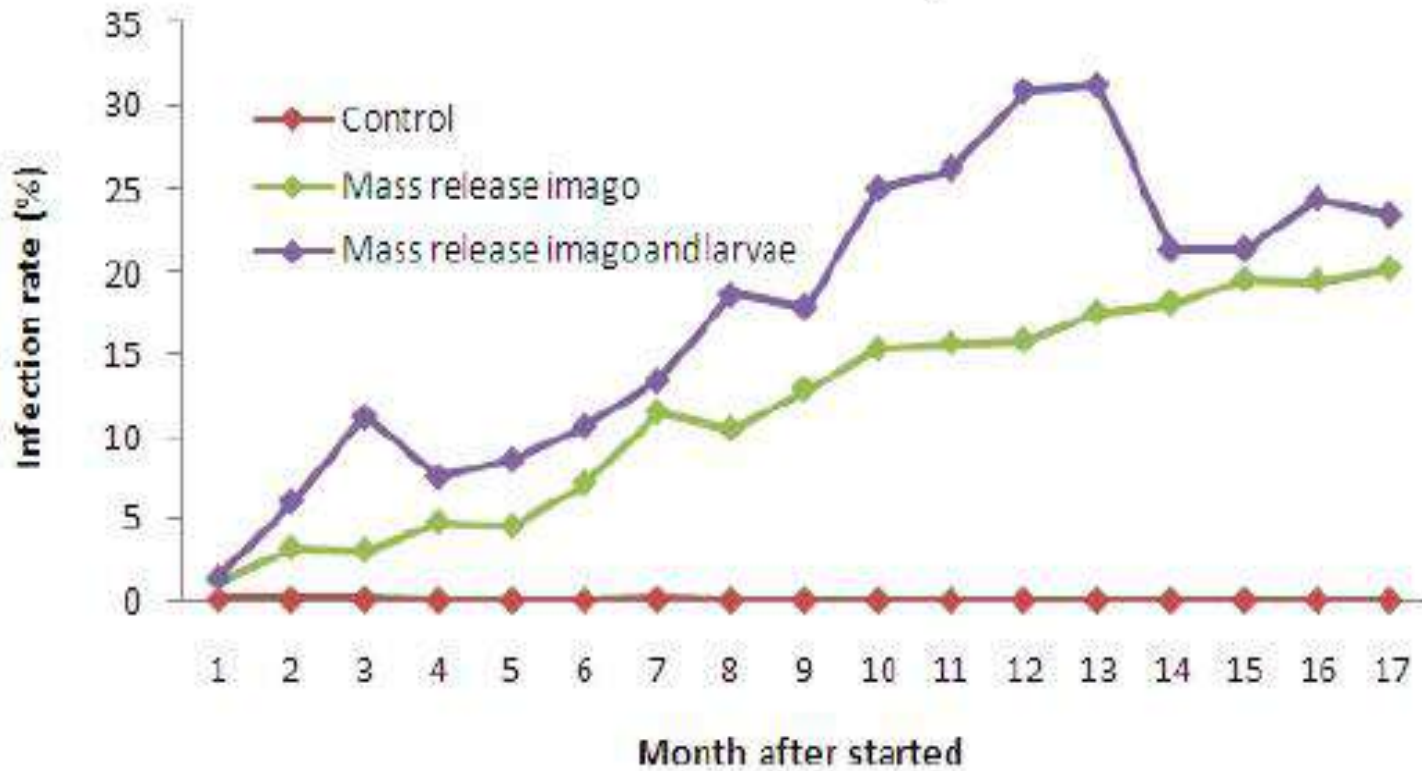


- Infection occurs on larvae and beetle
- Field application by releasing infected larvae and beetles

◀ Symptoms of OrNV infection on the rhinoceros larvae and beetle

Oryctes nuditivus (OrNV)

Trend for infection of OrNV to *Oryctes rhinoceros*



- Re-release of infected larvae and beetle could increase infection rate

Oryctes nudivirus (OrNV)

Mean population of *Oryctes rhinoceros* at breeding sites during the study

Treatment	Mean individual per m ² (IPMS) (\pm SD)
Control (No release of OrNV)	12.2 \pm 1.9 a
Mass release infected imago only	10.8 \pm 1.3 a
Mass release infected imago and larvae	3.3 \pm 0.3 b

Mean imago captured in pherotraps/trap/day

Treatment	Imago captured/trap/day (\pm SD)
Control (No release of OrNV)	17.5 \pm 1.6 a
Mass release infected imago only	14.8 \pm 2.3 b
Mass release infected imago and larvae	11.8 \pm 1.2 c

- Re-release of infected larvae and beetle could decrease *Oryctes* population

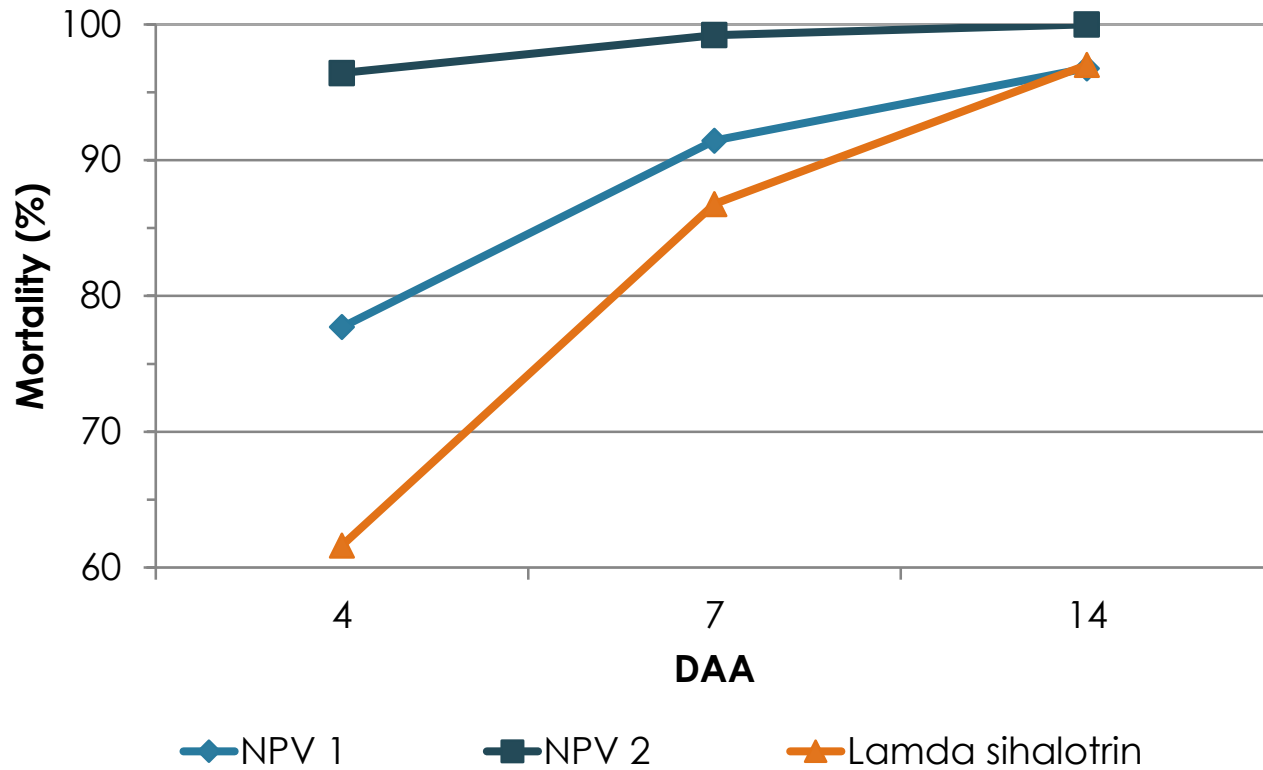


NPV

- Application of 400 g crude sap/ha reduce *S. asigna* population by more than 90%. Successive application maintains the population in check for 6 month in Bukit Sentang Estate
- Application of 250 – 500 ml virus suspension/ha decrease population of *S. asigna* from 8.8 to 1.9 larvae per frond. The population maintained in check for 2 consecutive years in Gunung Malayu Estate.

◀ Symptoms of SaNV infection on the *S. asigna* larvae

Field application in *S. asigna* – endemic area in North Sumatra



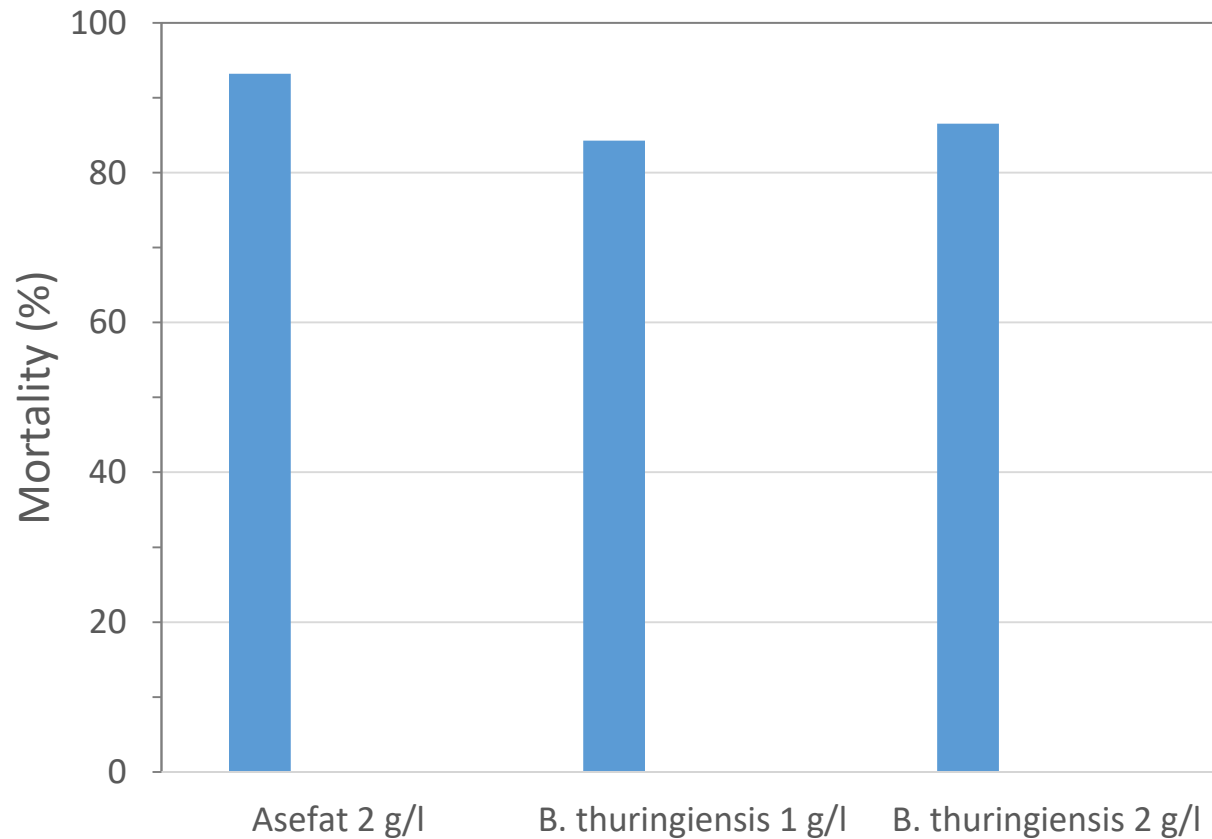
- SaNPV has better efficacy against lamda sihalotrin



Bacillus thuringiensis

- Widely been studied
- Used for controlling leaf-eating caterpillar
- Single-continuous application of *B. thuringiensis* to control *D. trima* in Bukit Sentang Estate was gradually reduce total infested area from 163 ha in 1992 to only 3 ha in 1993 and maintained total infested area of < 9 ha until 1996

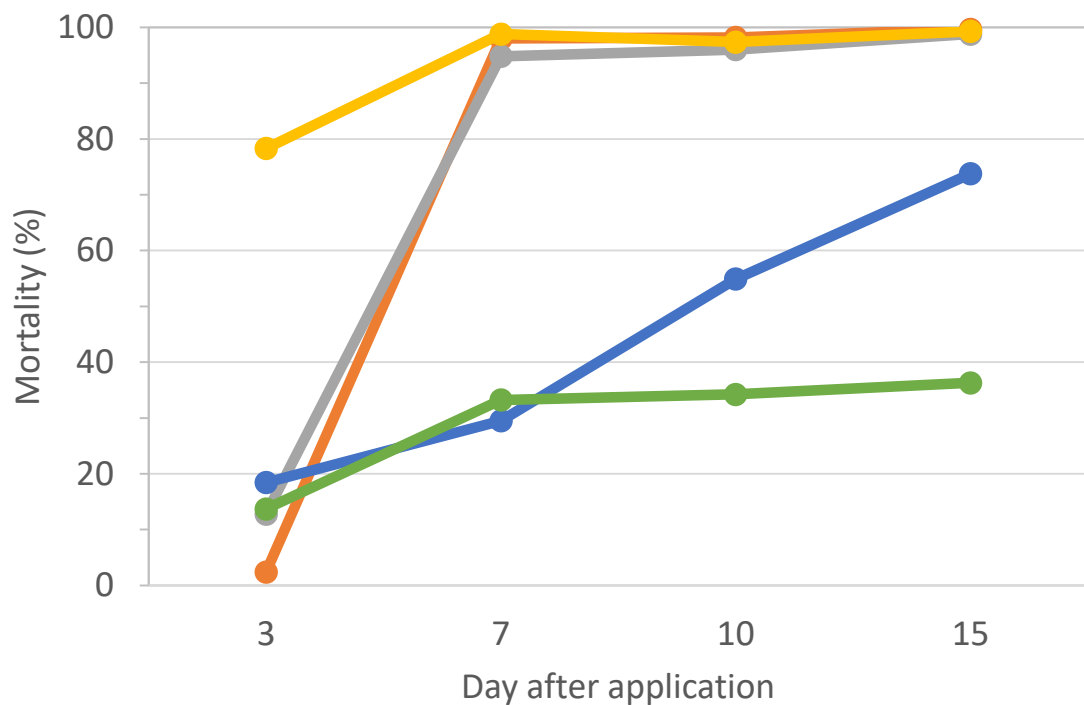
Spraying application of Bt for controlling *Metisa plana* in Tinjowan Estate, North Sumatra



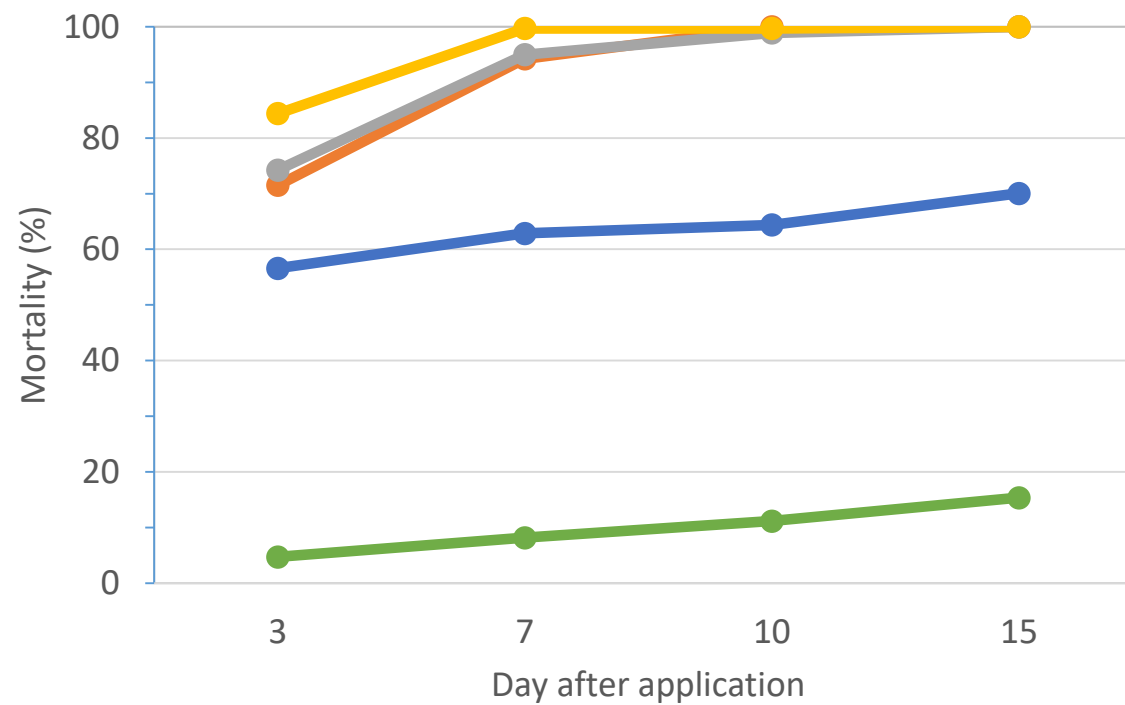
- Causes more than 80% mortality at 18 days after application
- Successive applications overcome the outbreak

Spraying application of Bt for controlling *Metisa plana*

Sei Meranti Estate



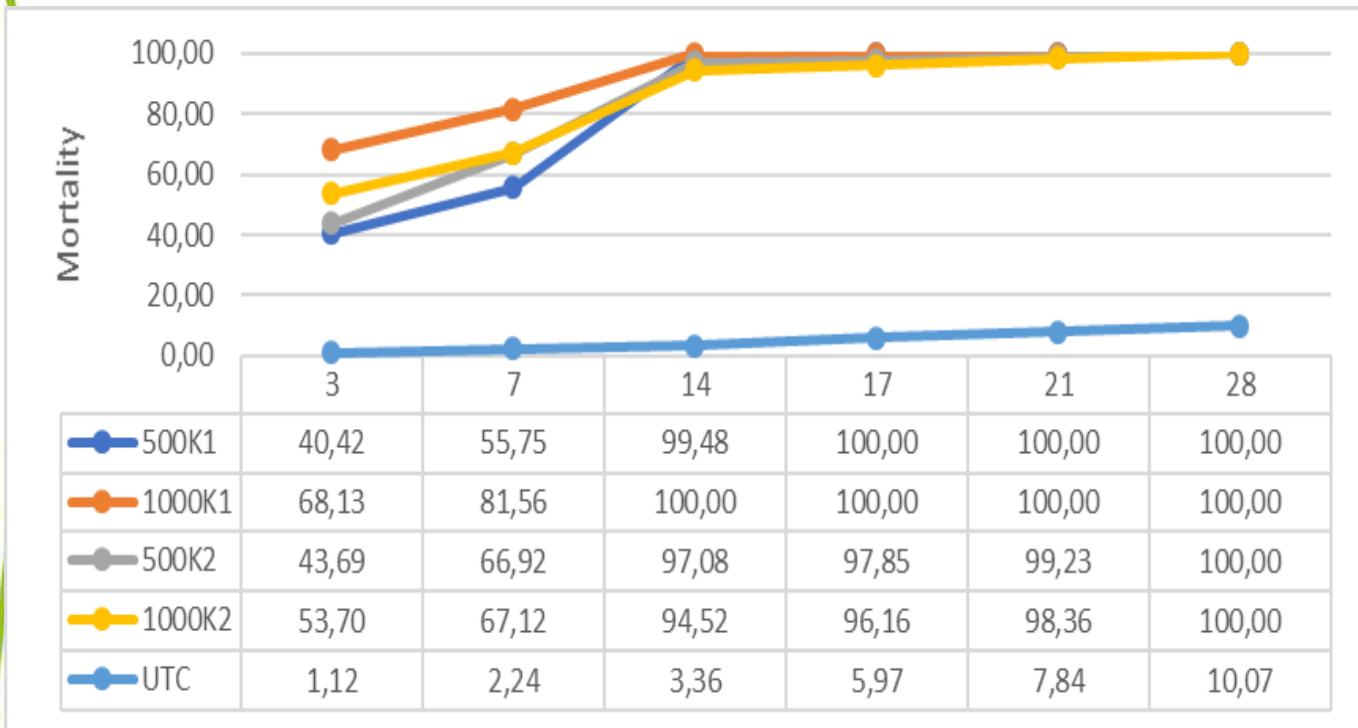
Bah Jambi Estate



500 ml/ha 375 ml/ha 250 ml/ha
125 ml/ha 0 ml/ha

500 ml/ha 375 ml/ha 250 ml/ha
125 ml/ha 0 ml/ha

Fogging application of Bt for controlling *Mahasena corbetti* in Bah Jambi Estate, North Sumatra



- Optimum dose for fogging application is 500 ml/ha
- Compatible with single and double tank fogging

K1:



K2:





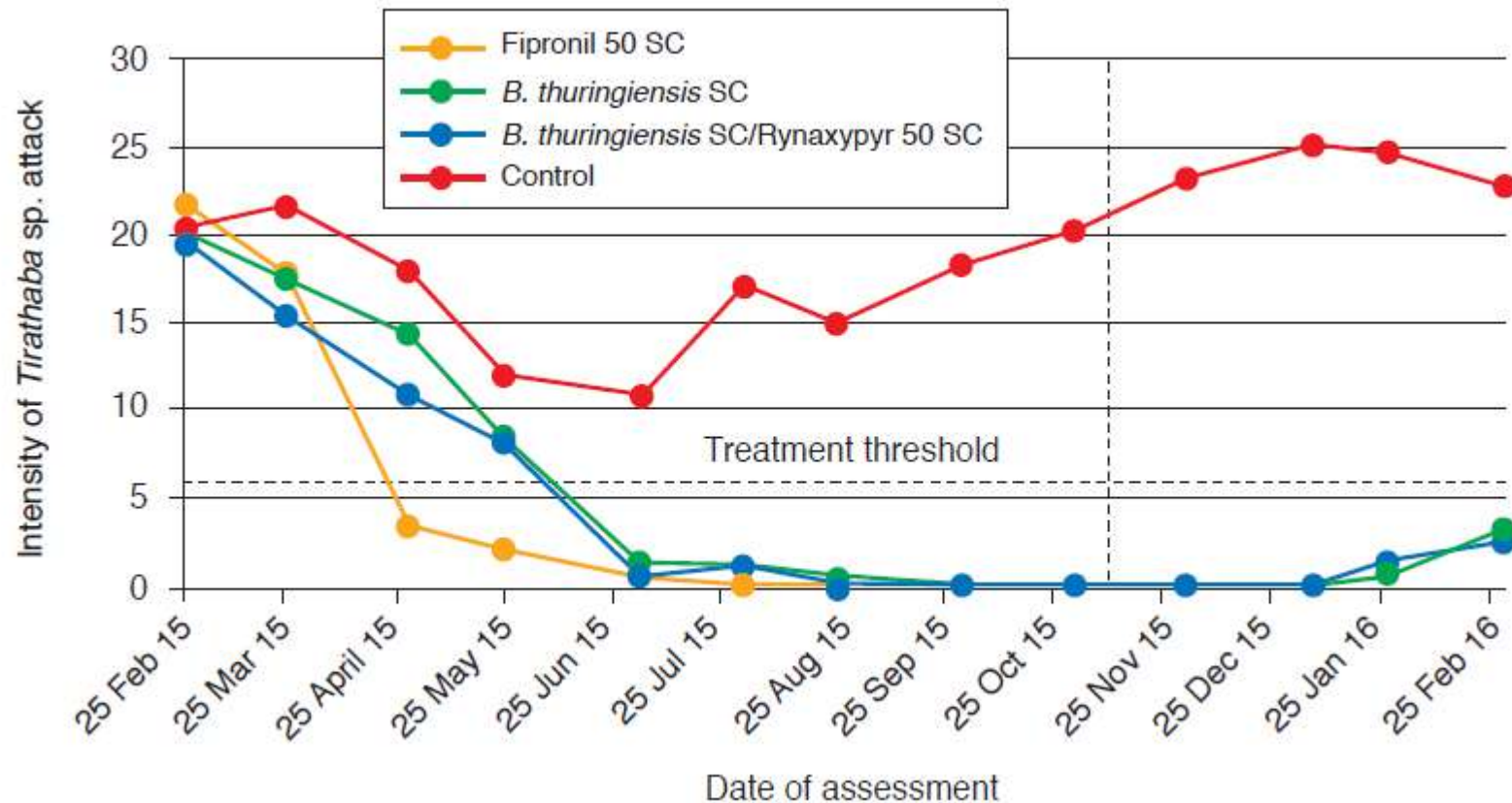
Ensure homogenous solution prior application!!



Need an appropriate ratio of bioagent (or insecticide), diesel fuel, water, and **surfactant**

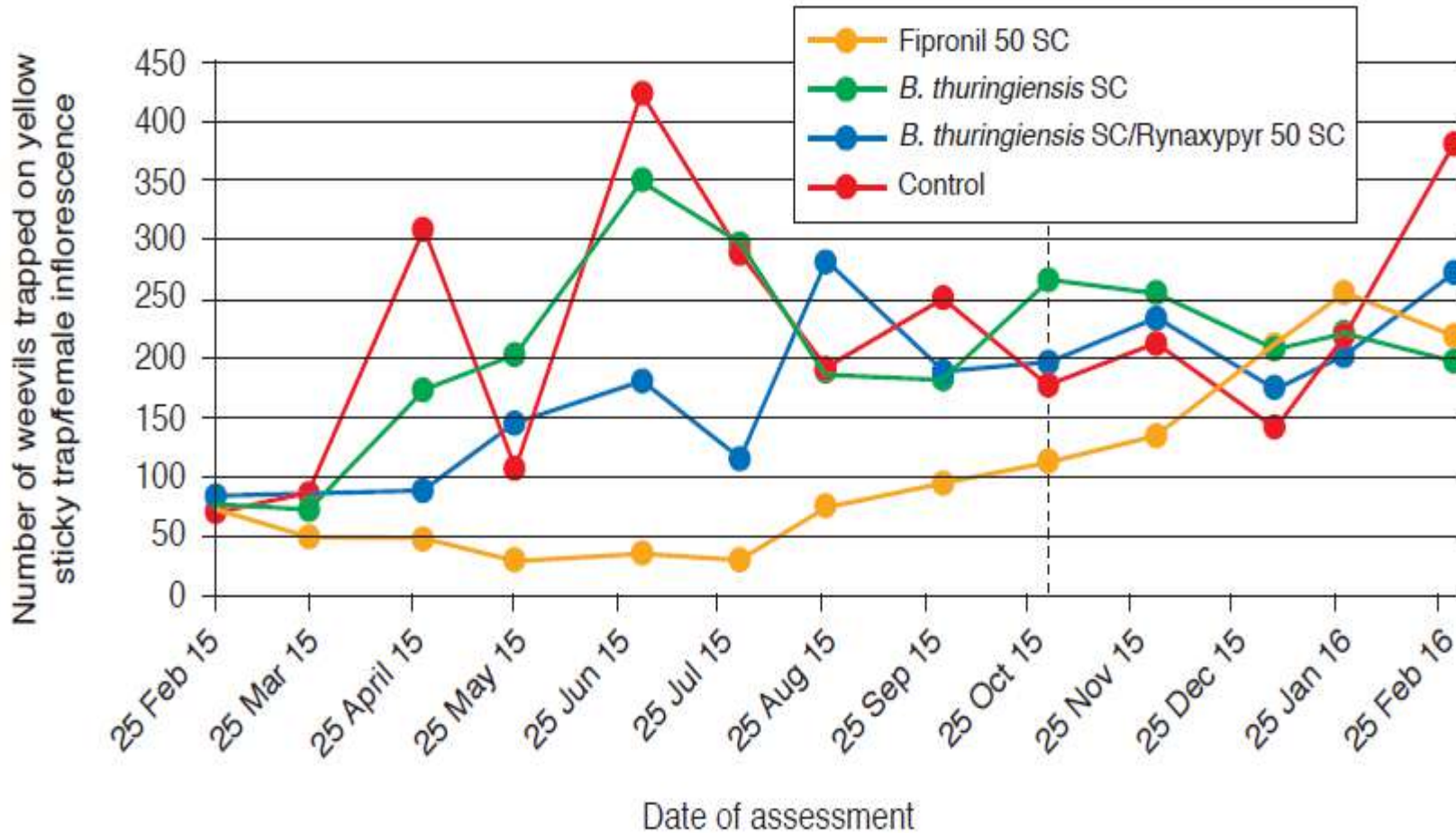


Longterm application of Bt for controlling bunch moth *Tirathaba rufivena* in Indragiri Hulu, Riau



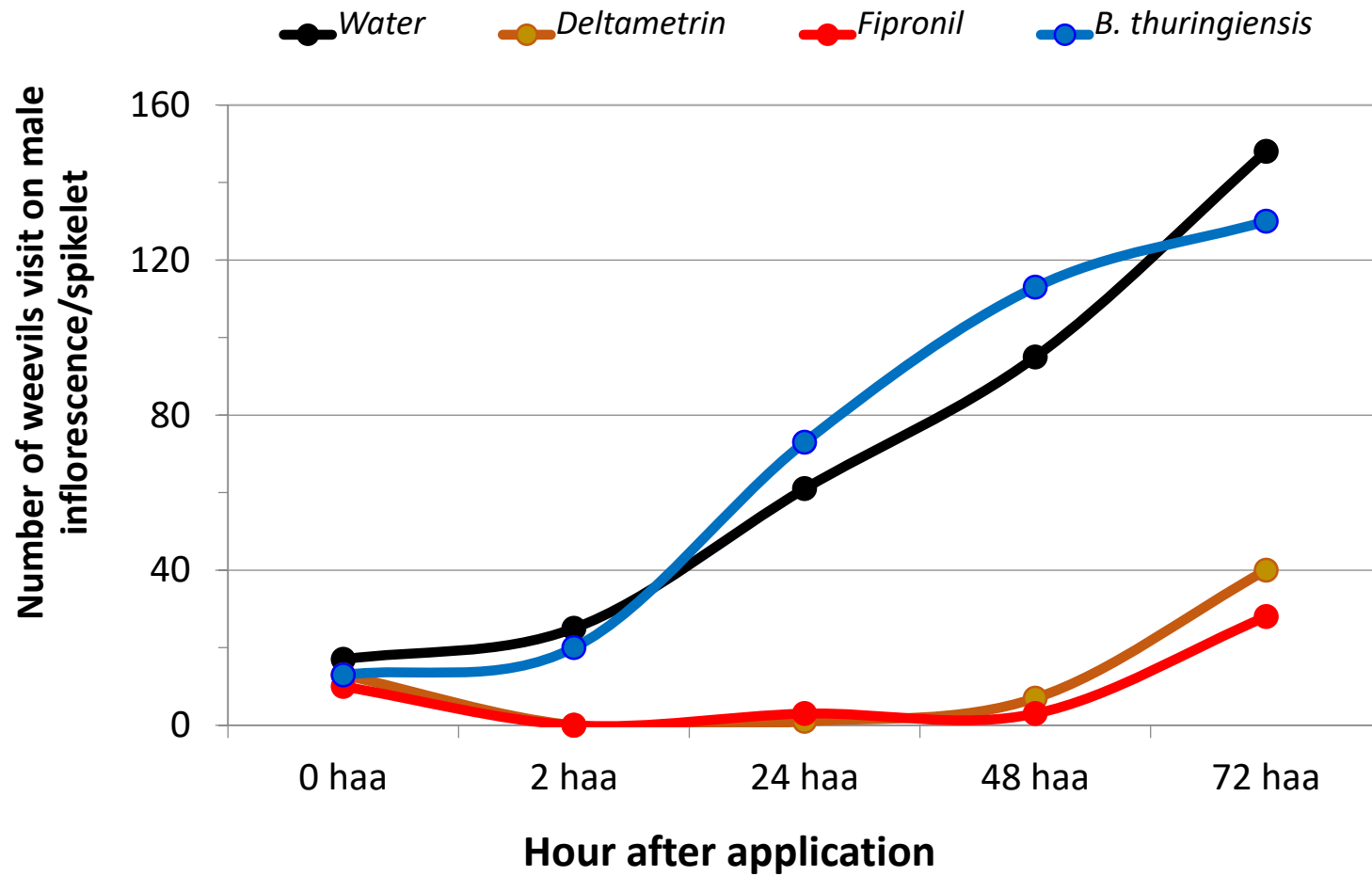
- Successive Bt application at 2 weeks interval for 9 months
- Intensity declines dramatically after 4 months of application

Impact on *Elaeidobius kamerunicus*



No adverse effect on *E. kamerunicus* under long term application of Bt

Impact on *Elaeidobius kamerunicus*



Normal visitation of *E. kamerunicus* on male anthesis inflorescence



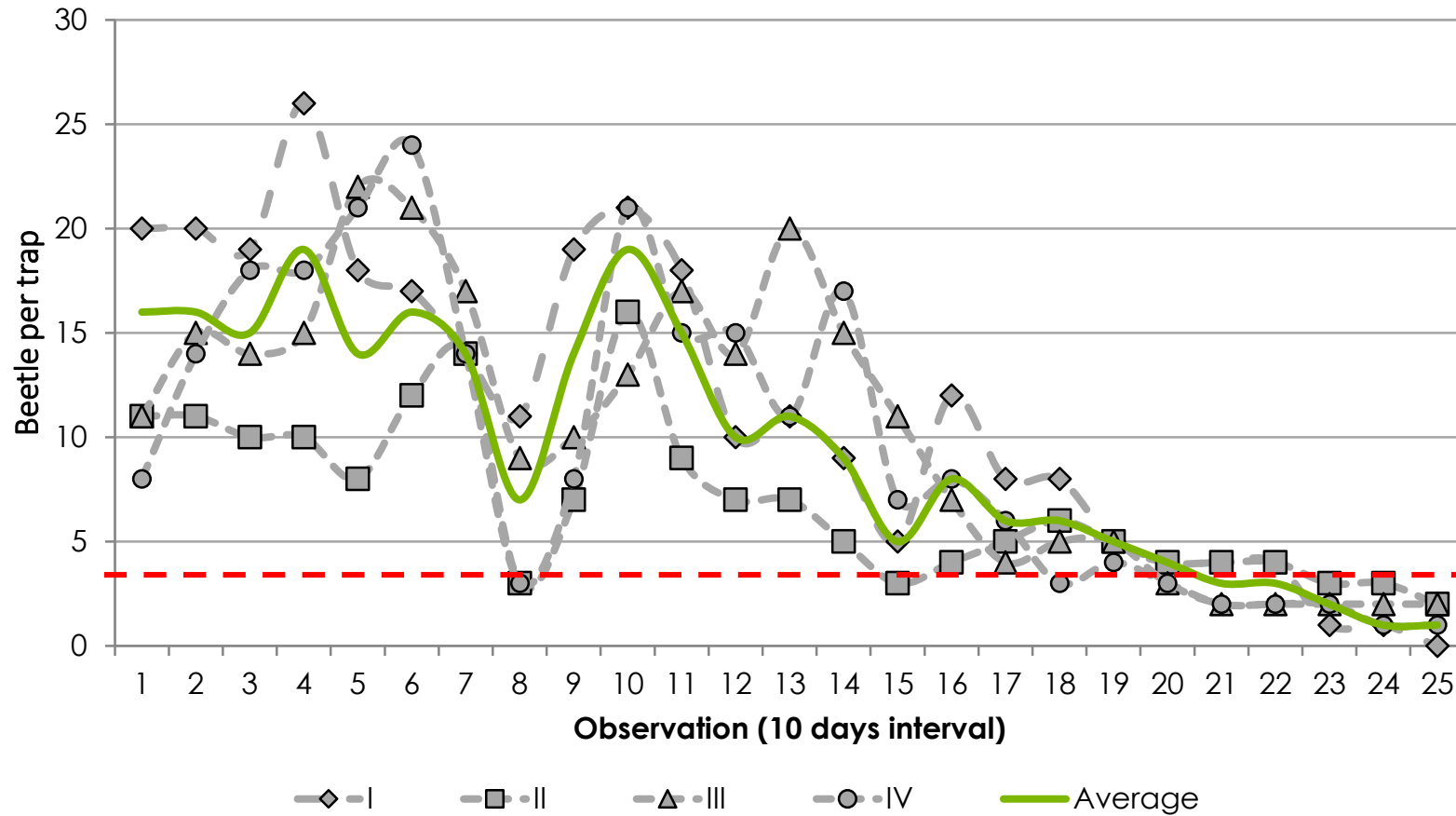
Aggregate pheromones

- Ecofriendly
- An integral part in IPM for rhinoceros beetle management
- Ethyl-4-methyl-octanoate
- Widely use for monitoring and management purposes
- Highly efficient for mass trapping *O. rhinoceros* beetles

Design of pherotraps



The role of E4-MO in suppressing rhinoceros beetle population in Sei Rokan Estate, Riau



Total beetle trapped:
146,289



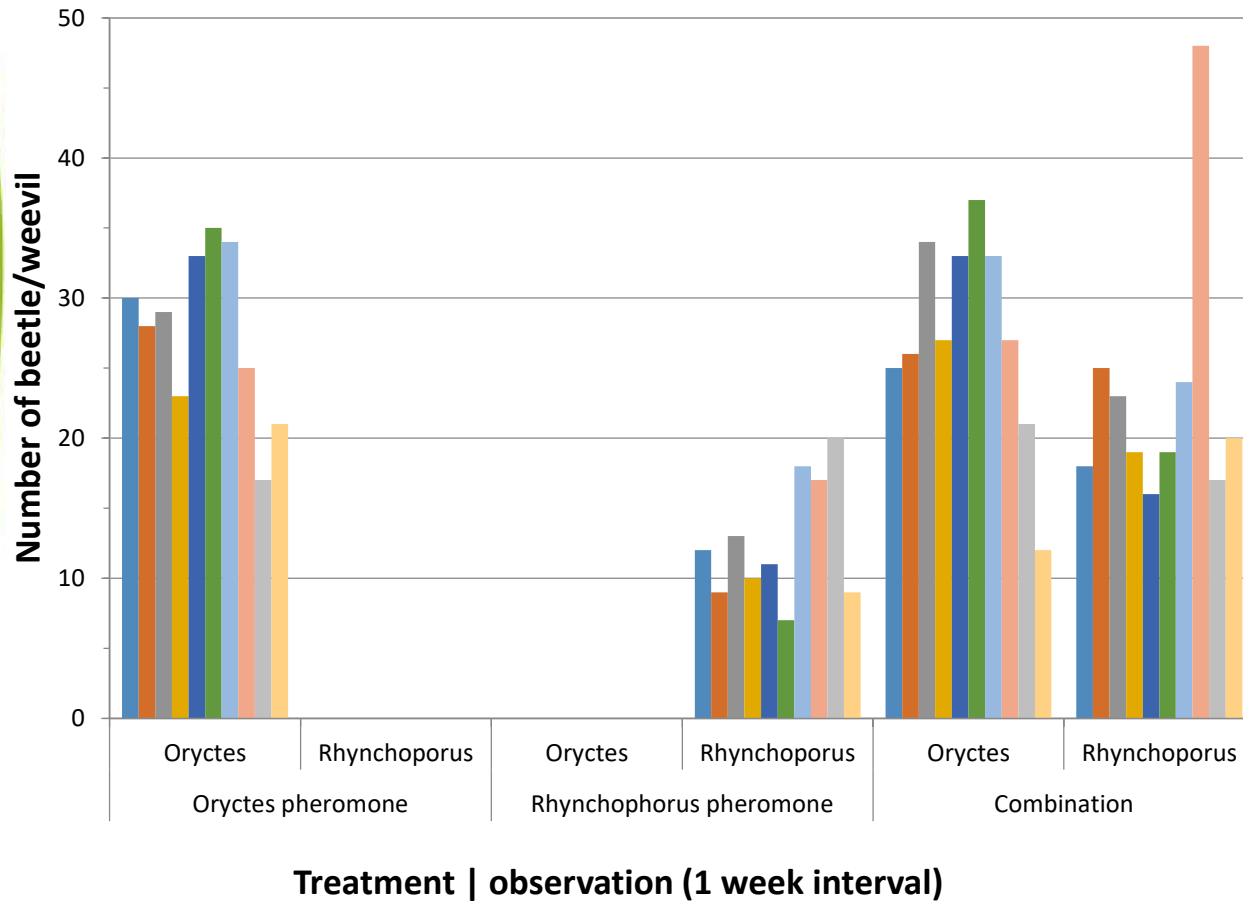
Average beetles trapped in Afdeling I – IV, Sei Rokan estate since October 2005 to September 2006

Integration with other methods



Combined with OrNV to improve catch-release beetles and so increase the potency of virus transmission in the field

Double pheromones application



Pre-mixture of E4-MO with 4-methyl-5-nonanol increases *R. ferrugineus* trapping

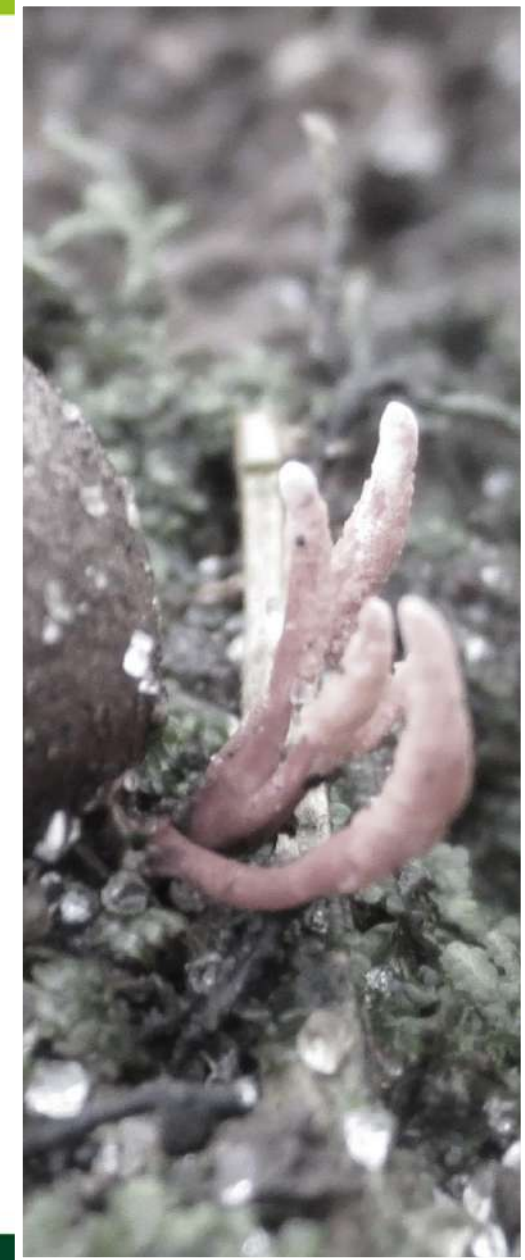
More insect pheromones are expected to come in the near future!



Challenges

Limited use of biocontrol products is mainly because some technical issues:

- Short storage period
- Bulky, high volume application needed
- Availability in large quantities
- Lack of promotion
- Planters mindset



Terima Kasih