

Insect birth control system devised, approved

ALBANY, N.Y. - The first practical system for interrupting the mating habits of insect pests and reducing their number through biological means rather than

through the use of pesticides has been approved by the Environmental Protection Agency for field use against pink bollworm, the scourge of cotton producers throughout the world. While this is the first EPA approval of a product of its type, its inventor says that other similar products for agriculture, forestry and residential pest control are in research and development stages.

Gossyplure H.F., developed by Albany International Corp., is a chemical duplicate of the natural mating scent emitted by female pink bollworm moths to attract male moths, packaged in a hollow plastic fiber. The pink bollworm moths produce caterpillar offspring that devour cotton in Arizona, California and other parts of the world.

When Gossyplure H.F. is applied to a cotton field, it permeates the air with the artificial sex scent so that male moths become confused and rarely find females with which to mate, thus causing a dramatic drop in the number of crop-damaging insects.

Until Albany International developed its unique Conrel

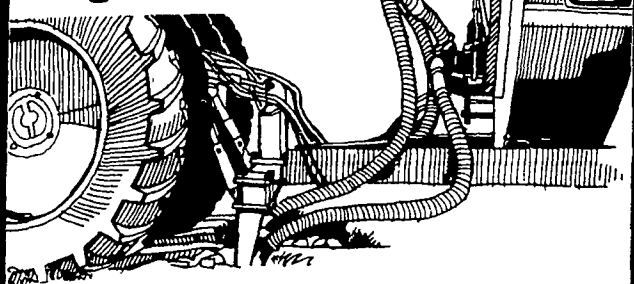
hollow fiber, timed release system (Conrel for CONtrolled RElease), the practical use of insect sexual attractants "pheromones" was simply a gleam in the researcher's eye. Pheromones are sophisticated chemicals that are expensive to make, requiring careful distribution and controlled evaporation in the area to be treated if they are to be effective. They are economically competitive with pesticides because they are used in small quantities.

One gram of Gossyplure H.F. (active ingredients) is usually sufficient to arrest the breeding of the pink bollworms, compared to 900 grams of a toxic pesticide for the same result. In field tests near Blythe, Calif., last year, cotton plants treated with Gossyplure H.F. suffered only 10 per cent damage from the pink bollworm versus more than 80 per cent damage to untreated plants.

Unlike toxic pesticides, that are usually sprayed onto crops in either a liquid or powder form, pheromones must be carefully evaporated in precise

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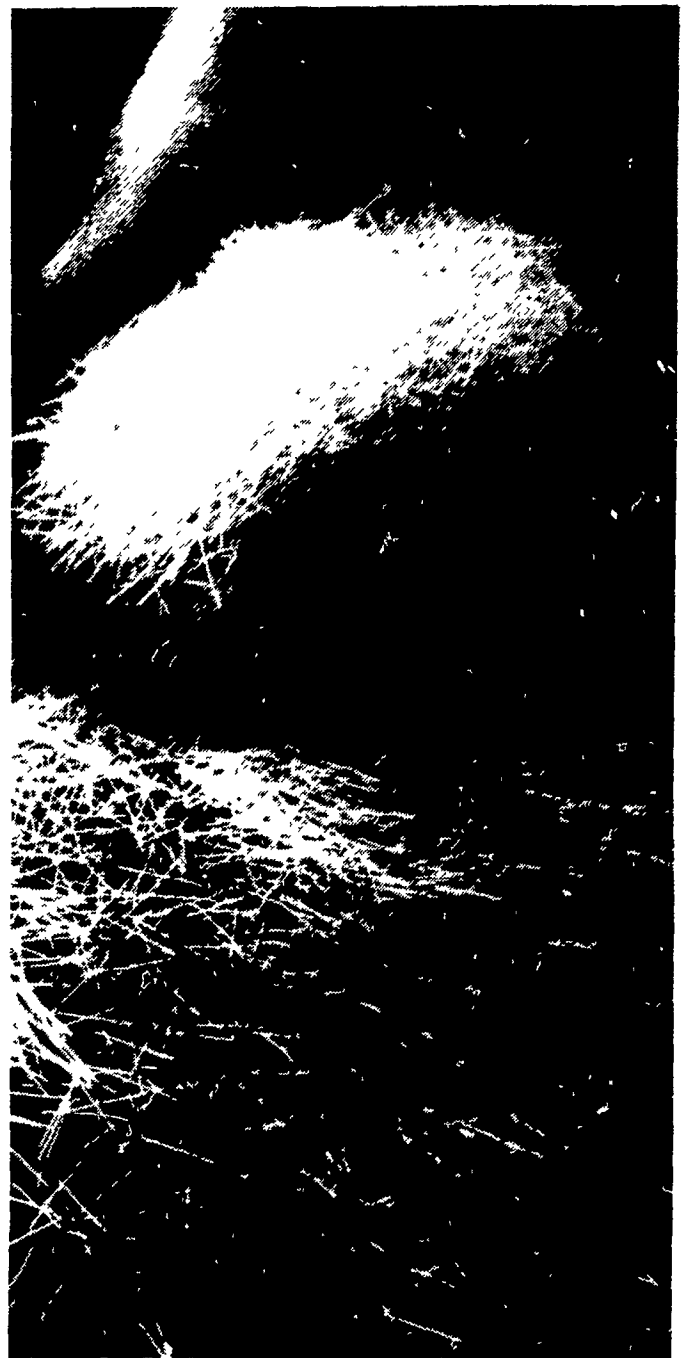
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Conrel's pheromone filled hollow fibers containing approximately one gram of Gossyplure, which prevents pink bollworms from mating, has the equivalent insect control effectiveness of approximately 900 grams of pesticides.

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