



Università di Parma



Università di Pisa



4th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference

*University of Parma - Italy
9 - 12 september 2003*

**Under the patronage of the
Ministero dell'Ambiente
e della Tutela del Territorio**

Scientific Program and Book of Abstracts

Corn appetibility reduction in Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) in relationship to the use of commercial repellents

Francesco Santilli¹, Lorenzo Galardi² & Marco Bagliacca¹

*1 Dipartimento di Produzioni Animali, Università di Pisa, Italy
fsantilli@vet.unipi.it*

*2 Agenzia Regionale per lo Sviluppo e l'Innovazione nel Settore Agricolo e Forestale (ARSIA),
Firenze, Italy*

The aim of this preliminary trial was to verify the possibility of control wild boar damages in sprouting cornfields.

Three adult wild boars (2 female and 1 male) were introduced in an 11000 sq.m-fenced area. The animals were fed with corn treated with three different repellents and with not treated corn (control). The following products were tested: -Morkit“, an antraquinone based repellent used to control bird damage on sprouting cereals; -Tree guard‘ a denatonim benzoate repellent used to protect trees by deer browsing; -Hot Sauce“ a capsaicine based repellent. Five tests were carried out, each lasting 3-7 days. In the first four tests we compared the daily consumption of the differently treated corn with the control (not treated corn) and in the last test we compared the effects of the different repellents (without control).

Results showed that: Hot sauce failed to reduce consumption compared to control to the dose of 10 g/kg but reduced the daily consumption from 76% to 88% to the dose of 25 g/kg; Morkit (5 g/kg) reduced daily consumption from 75% to 100%. Tree guard (sold ready to use) reduced consumption from 61% to 93%. In the last test, only treated corn left to the animal, Morkit and Hot Sauce showed a lower consumption (40% and 41% respectively) compared with Tree Guard.

The results of the present trials show that the use of repellents might reduce wild boar corn consumption in seeded or sprouting fields. However field test are necessary to evaluate and confirm the experimentally observed effects before to replace the electrified fences during this phase and limit them to the ripening phase.