UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA *seeks partner to license*

NecDew™ - Synthetic Nectar-Honeydew Ant Bait

The University of Florida is actively seeking companies interested in commercializing an exciting development in ant bait technology. An ant's diet normally consists of nectars and honeydews; our novel attractant formula precisely mimics these dietary sources, significantly increasing the consumption of bait. Comprehensive laboratory and field-tests (on the white-footed ant, one of the most difficult to control pest ant species) prove *NecDew*™ is significantly better at attracting and exterminating pests than existing insecticides.

Applications

Homeowners, farmers, and pest control professionals will use the superior bait to engage and destroy ant colonies

Advantages

- Designed to replicate an ant's normal diet, even the most discerning ant palate (i.e. the white-footed ant) is unable to distinguish between nectars, honeydews, and our Synthetic Nectar-Honeydew matrix, dramatically increasing the effectiveness of insecticides
- Provides substantial savings to pest control operators by preventing the need for multiple applications of less effective insecticides
- Able to be used in conjunction with numerous insect toxins (in liquid, gel, or granule form), *NecDew*™ offers flexibility

The Technology

Developed at the University of Florida's premier Department of Entomology and Nematology, the *NecDew*™ formula, specifically designed to cater to pest ants' palates, is a state-of-the-art attractant. Cognizant of the characteristics necessary to improve the efficacy of insecticides, our researchers formulated *NecDew*™ to maximize consumption of numerous insect toxins and amplify the rate of uptake. *NecDew*™ attractant is a technologically advanced and cost effective bait.

White-footed ants prefer NecDew (left) vs. commercial product (right).

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The Inventors

Dr. John Warner (left) inventor of NecDew.
Dr. Rudolf Scheffrahn (right)

Rudolf Scheffrahn is an Associate Professor at the University of Florida's Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center. He has conducted research at the University of Florida since receiving his Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, 1984. Over the last five years, Dr. Scheffrahn has been awarded more than $400,000 in contracts and grants for his research. His research focus is on improving existing termite control strategies, especially those of drywood termites, developing new control practices and assessing the physical dynamics of structural fumigants used to control drywood termites. As a result of his research, Dr. Scheffrahn has developed a bag system for protecting food from fumigant exposure, conducted a taxonomic and biogeographical survey of West Indies termites, and made improvements in the detection and control for drywood termites. His publications include over sixty refereed papers and seven book chapters.

John Warner, the inventor of NecDew, received his Ph.D. from the University of Florida. He is the owner of Shalom Pest Control, Inc. in Boca Raton, Florida and continues to do research on pest ant species at the University of Florida's Ft. Lauderdale Research and Education Center. He received a B.S. in Agronomy from California Polytechnic State University. John spent 18 years in Ecuador, South America, where he sold and tested agricultural chemicals. His publications include four "Featured Creature" articles available on the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology website: white-footed ants, Florida carpenter ants, compact carpenter ants, and Caribbean crazy ants.

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