

RESPONSE OF PACIFIC COAST WIREWORM (COLEOPTERA: ELATERIDAE) TO FOOD BAITS IN LABORATORY AND FIELD

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Assays were done in the laboratory and field to monitor response of Pacific Coast wireworm, *Limonius canus* LeConte, to food-baits. A glass plate assay was used in the laboratory trials to study movement of wireworm larvae through soil in response to several food-baits, including germinating seed of grains, carrot, and potato. Studies were done with these same baits in the field to determine effectiveness under field conditions. In both laboratory and field trials, germinating seed of wheat and barley ranked higher in response by larvae than the remaining food baits. In the glass plate assays, 65-70% of wireworms contacted the wheat or barley seed baits within a 2 hour assay period. Corn seed and sliced carrot were also effective, with 60% of larvae contacting the baits. Rice, rye, and potato were contacted by 30-45% of larvae. The field studies showed that all food-baits captured more wireworms than unbaited traps. Treatment rankings were positively correlated between field and laboratory studies ($r = 0.83$). These studies showed that *L. canus* is attracted to food baits in both laboratory and field trials, and that baits may prove useful to monitor populations of this pest in the field.