

**DIEL PERIODICITY OF PHEROMONE RESPONSE AND MATING ACTIVITY  
IN THE CONSPERSE STINK BUG, *Euschistus conspersus***

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The consperse stink bug, *Euschistus conspersus* Uhler, has emerged as an important pest of pome fruit production in north central Washington in the past decade. Crop losses of greater than 10% have been reported from many orchards and some fruit packing facilities have rated stink bug damage as being a more serious problem than codling moth. Relatively little is known about the habits of this insect and as a result management has been difficult. The diel pattern of attraction of *E. conspersus* to synthetic sources of the aggregation pheromone, methyl (2E,4Z)-decadienoate, was characterized in a series of field experiments. These experiments showed a distinct periodicity in the response of *E. conspersus* to pheromone sources, including a high level of aggregation formation and mating activity during the hours of scotophase. The sequence of arrivals and sex ratios found among responders to pheromone sources was investigated in detail and the implications of these findings for management and monitoring of this pest will be discussed.