

Gall midge sex pheromones

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The gall midges (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) is an insect family with more than 5000 described species and a high rate of speciation. During their 1-2 day life span the adults will mate and oviposit, using pheromones and plant volatiles to find partners and host plants. Several species are reported as serious pests on economically important crops, e.g. wheat, rice, sorghum, and rapeseed. Due to their small size and sudden appearance in the field, gall midges are difficult to detect and, for want of accurate monitoring methods, farmers commonly use scheduled spraying or spray just in case. An increasing number of gall midge sex pheromones have been identified. These findings open up for development of pheromone-based monitoring systems.

