



# IAPPS NEWSLETTER

Number IV

April, 2012

---

## **IOBC-WPRS SYMPOSIUM ON MANAGEMENT OF *TUTA ABSOLUTA***

The joint symposium on management of *Tuta absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae), organized by the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) - West Palaearctic Regional Section (WPRS) - Integrated Production, Protection and Biocontrol Commission for North African Countries in partnership with European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO), Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and Near East Plant Protection Organization (NEPPO) was held on November 16-18, 2011 in Agadir, Morocco. The symposium was organized in collaboration with the IRAC (Insecticide Resistance Action Committee) and IBMA (International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association).

In the past few years *T. absoluta* (tomato borer, South American tomato moth, tomato leafminer) has spread rapidly through countries in the Mediterranean Basin and has threatened glasshouse production in Northern Europe. With its high reproductive capacity, *T. absoluta* is considered to be one of the most important lepidopteran pests on tomato. It also occurs on other plants of the Solanaceous family. It can cause total yield loss and its presence may have serious consequences for trade (export). *Tuta absoluta* is a very challenging pest to control. In addition, control may be complicated by the appearance of resistance to insecticides.

While various countries may have worked to develop management strategies for the tomato borer, lack of communication limits other countries from learning from their experience.

The aim of this symposium was to provide a common forum for researchers, regulatory authorities, experts from extension services or advisory bodies, and the crop protection industry, to share their knowledge in pest biology, phytosanitary measures, control measures, particularly biological control and insecticide resistance; to identify gaps in knowledge and research needs in order to avoid duplication of work.

By the use of plenary lecture sessions, discussion sessions and a poster session, the symposium intended to address the following issues:

- Biology, life cycle, host preferences and nature of damage of *T. absoluta*
- Brief background and history to the problem, geographical distribution
- Phytosanitary measures (pathways)
- Current status of the tomato leaf borer in EPPO/NEPPO countries. Participants from different countries gave a short overview of current recommendations on how to control *T. absoluta*.

- Control strategies
  - pest monitoring
  - management by semiochemicals (mating disruption and mass trapping)
  - cultural methods (good agricultural practices),
  - biological control
  - chemical control (present status of available active substances)
- Insecticide resistance (nature of resistance and resistance mechanisms, resistance monitoring methods, present situation and recommendations for the control of *T. absoluta* with regard to insecticide resistance)
- Problems outside EPPO/NEPPO region
- Recommended Integrated Pest Management Strategies



There were more than 240 participants from 40 countries, including universities, research institutions, agrochemical companies, and international organizations.

The program, abstracts, power point presentations have been posted on the following web site:  
[http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2011\\_conferences/tuta\\_absoluta.htm](http://archives.eppo.org/MEETINGS/2011_conferences/tuta_absoluta.htm) .  
 They will be posted very soon in the IOBC web site.

For more information:

**Prof. Mohamed Besri**

IAPPS Coordinator Region III: North Africa

Convenor: IOBC/WPRS Integrated Production, Protection and Biocontrol Commission for North African Countries

E-mail: [m.besri@iav.ac.ma](mailto:m.besri@iav.ac.ma)

**The IAPPS Newsletter is published by the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences and distributed in *Crop Protection* to members and other subscribers. *Crop Protection*, published by Elsevier, is the Official Journal of IAPPS.**

**IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.**

**It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world's crop and forest ecosystems.**

**Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site [www.plantprotection.org](http://www.plantprotection.org).**

**The *IAPPS Newsletter* welcomes news, letters, and other items of interest from individuals and organizations. Address correspondence and information to:**

**Manuele Tamò  
Editor, IAPPS Newsletter  
IITA-Benin  
08 B.P. 0932 Tri Postal, Cotonou, Republic of Benin  
E-mail: [m.tamo@cgiar.org](mailto:m.tamo@cgiar.org)**