

Assessing the effectiveness of food sprays

By Dr Stan Nemic, Integrated Pest Management Australia

In the 2000–01 season, we conducted field trials to assess the attractant qualities of three commercial mixtures — Aminofeed, Envirofeast and Predfeed — on Ingard cotton. The purpose was to evaluate the ability of the three products to attract beneficial organisms to cotton plots.

The trial was conducted on the Cotton Seed Distributors farm at Wee Waa using the following treatments:

- Untreated control;
- Aminofeed at three litres per hectare;
- Envirofeast at 2.5 kg per hectare; and,
- Predfeed at 2.5 kg per hectare.

The Ingard cotton remained unsprayed by insecticides throughout the season. The single block of 1.34 hectares had four subplot replicates per treatment.

The products were applied by boom spray in a volume of 96 litres per hectare three times during late December–early January.

Results

Predatory bugs

Bigeyed bugs were significantly more abundant in the Aminofeed treatment (see Figure 1).

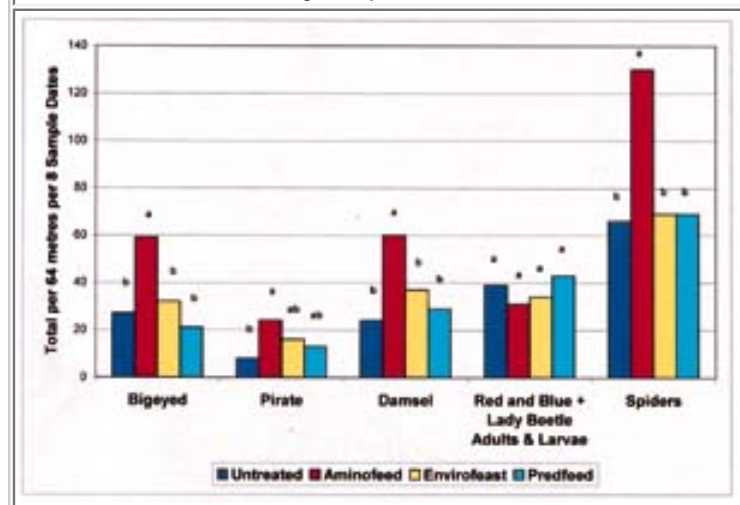
The Aminofeed treatment also had higher numbers of pirate bugs than the other treatments. But there were no statistically significant differences between the treatments.

Damsel bugs were significantly more abundant in the Aminofeed treatment. A combination of all predatory bugs was significantly more abundant in the Aminofeed treatment.

Other predators

There were no significant differences in the

FIGURE 1: Summary of predator numbers



numbers of predatory beetles in any of the treatments. Spiders were significantly more abundant in the Aminofeed treatment.

For more information contact: Dr Stan Nemec, ph: 02 6795 1111; email: ipma@northnet.com.au