

Publication

Environment and the Sterile Insect Technique

Book Item (Buchkapitel, Lexikonartikel, jur. Kommentierung, Beiträge in Sammelbänden)

ID 4612075

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Year 2021

Title Environment and the Sterile Insect Technique

Editor(s) Dyck, V. A.; Hendrichs, J.; Robinson, A. S.

Book title Sterile Insect Technique. Principles and Practice in Area-Wide Integrated Pest Management

Edition Second Edition

Publisher CRC Press

Place of publication Boca Raton

Pages 753-780

ISSN/ISBN 978-0-367-47434-8 ; 978-1-00-303557-2

Keywords environmental risk assessment, insect pest control, biodiversity conservation

The sterile insect technique (SIT) is an exceptionally promising pest control method in terms of efficacy and environmental compatibility. Assessments of environmental risks vary according to the status and origin of the target pests. The suppression or eradication of non-native pest populations with the sit raises few environmental concerns, and these are related mainly to some pre-release suppression techniques. However, the elimination of native species, or at least populations of native species, requires more detailed and complex assessments of ecological effects and consequences for biodiversity conservation. Eradication programmes provide opportunities to study these topics within the scope of both environmental impact assessments and operational monitoring programmes.

edoc-URL <https://edoc.unibas.ch/80502/>

Full Text on edoc No;

Digital Object Identifier DOI 10.1201/9781003035572-23