

THE COMBINATION OF CONTROL METHODS AS THE BEST MANNER TO CONTROL *TUTA ABSOLUTA* (Meyrick, 1917)

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ABSTRACT

Tomato is a very important vegetable crop used both for fresh consume and processing in Albania. It could be affected from various serious pests; recently the most devastating ones is *Tuta absoluta*. In accordance with climatic conditions of Albania *Tuta absoluta* gives four generations starting from March till July. In the lack of control measure, the percentage of damage caused by this pest on tomato in greenhouses and open-field can achieve very high level. In this context the integration of control measures is crucial to achieve successfully the controlling of this pest. Mass capture technique used alone does not guaranty a total effectiveness but it is necessary to be accompanied with other methods. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for controlling *Tuta absoluta* might be applied in different strategies including: mass trapping technique, light traps, insecticides as well as biological insecticide. In order to monitor the tomato moth *Tuta absoluta* in experimental area, 4 pheromone traps were installed. The delta traps were placed in the center of greenhouse less than 1 meter. Mass capture technique started immediately when the first adult insects were observed during the monitoring of pheromone lures. In this variant were placed 10 water traps with lure per 0.5 hectare. The products used for the treatment during the experiment are *Bacillus thuringiensis*, Azadirachtin, Spinosad and Indoxacarb. The objective of the study is to assess the effectiveness of different control methods.

Keywords: Tomato, *Tuta absoluta*, combine, control, methods, mass capture, insecticides.