Mission

The mission of the Southern Insect Management Research Unit (SIMRU) is to generate new knowledge of arthropod pest biology, ecology and management and integrate this knowledge into contemporary farming systems that will promote economical and environmentally stable pest management practices for the southern U.S.

The vision of SIMRU is to be a recognized center of innovation for negating agricultural pest problem through deployed scientific knowledge of pest biology, ecology and management options.

CRIS PROJECT

Insecticide Resistance Management and New Control Strategies for Pests of Corn, Cotton, Sorghum, Soybean, and Sweetpotato

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

Clint Allen (Project Leader)
Randall Luttrell
Katherine Parys
OP Perera
Yu Cheng Zhu

CRIS PROJECT

Control of Tarnished Plant Bugs by Biocontrol and Other Methods

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

Randall Luttrell
Maribel Portilla (Project Leader)

CRIS PROJECT

Effect of Resistance on Insect Pest Management in Transgenic Cotton

PROJECT INVESTIGATORS

Clint Allen
Nathan Little
Randall Luttrell
Katherine Parys
OP Perera (Project Leader)
Maribel Portilla

WELCOME

2015 SUMMER EMPLOYEES

- Mamadou Fadiga
- Manuela Jojoa
- Marcus Cannon
- Megan Holley
- Mi'Shayla Johnson
- Nicholas Manus
- Raksha Chatakondi
- Robert Adams
- Robert Hurt
- Russell Godbold
- Sariah Warren
- Severino Signa
- Shannon Signa
- Shundalyn Moore
Congratulations to SIMRU and Dr. Luttrell
Delta Council honored Dr. Luttrell and SIMRU on Outstanding Contributions to Research

Dr. Randy Luttrell of Stoneville was honored recently at the 80th Annual Meeting of Delta Council as the 2015 recipient for Outstanding Contributions to Research. In announcing his award, Delta Council President Walton Gresham said, “When it comes to the management of insect pests of row crops such as cotton, corn, and soybeans, there is no one more respected in the Nation than Dr. Luttrell and we are pleased that he is the recipient of our recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Research. A longtime leader in entomology circles, Dr. Randy Luttrell is the Research Leader of the USDA's Southern Insect Management Research Unit in Stoneville and recognized worldwide for his scientific horsepower.”

Welcome Aboard Priya Chatakondi
Please join us in welcoming Ms. Priya Chatakondi to the Southern Insect Management Research Unit (SIMRU) and the USDA ARS Stoneville, Mississippi Location. Ms. Chatakondi joined SIMRU as a student employee while pursuing a degree at the Moorhead Community College and continued to work as a Biological Science Technician after graduation. Recently she was selected for a 13-month term appointment to work on insect husbandry and genetics research in Dr. O. P. Perera's laboratory. She has four years of experience in maintaining insect colonies with specific traits, bioassays, and nucleic acid extractions. Ms. Chatakondi’s office is located in 302A in Bldg. 1 of the Jamie Whitten Delta States Research Center, Stoneville, Mississippi.

Welcome Aboard Dr. Mathew Seymour
Please join us in welcoming Dr. Mathew Seymour to the USDA, ARS Southern Insect Management Research Unit (SIMRU). Dr. Seymour joined SIMRU as a Senior Research Entomologist to work closely with Dr. O. P. Perera’s group to study insect genetics. He is trained as an ecologist and evolutionary biologist with specific interest in spatial ecology and metapopulation dynamics. He obtained a B.S degree in Biology and Math at Brandeis University, M.S degree in Molecular and Integrative Physiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and obtained a Ph.D degree in Evolutionary Ecology at Harvard University. Dr. Seymour’s office is 309 in Bldg. 1 of the Jamie Whitten Delta States Research Center, Stoneville, Mississippi.

80th Annual Meeting of Delta Council
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Congratulations Yolanda Harvey
On Fifteen Years of Service

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FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES
CELEBRATION HONORING CATHY WARREN
Gleaning Sweet Potatoes for a Good Cause

After gleaning and collecting sweet potatoes, the team sorts them and distributes the potatoes to various local food banks and community organizations.

Lyle Adams, an entomologist with USDA’s Agricultural Research Service in Mississippi, discusses the importance of this work.

“I think it’s a great way to give back to the community. We’re able to help families and individuals in need by providing them with healthy, nutritious food,” Adams said.

The sweet potatoes are sorted into different categories, such as size and quality, before being distributed to local organizations. This ensures that the potatoes are used in a way that maximizes their nutritional value.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATION

Kaleb (June 10)
Nathan (June 12)
Kenya (June 15)
Dillion (June 25)
Donny (June 26)

NEW PUBLICATION CONGRATULATION

Dr. O.P. Perera

Generation of a Transcriptome in a Model Lepidopteran Pest, Heliothis virescens, Using Multiple Sequencing Strategies


ABSTRACT: Full genome projects (FGP) are a changing part of many economic crops. Long-term use of chemical control prompted evolution and development of resistance to current insecticides. Heliothis virescens is a major economic pest of a variety of crops, including cotton and corn. In this study, we generated a transcriptome for this pest using multiple sequencing strategies to provide a more complete dataset. This dataset will be used to develop more effective control strategies.

NEW PUBLICATION CONGRATULATION

Dr. Yu Cheng Zhu

Evidence of Multiple/Cross Resistance to Bt and Organophosphate Insecticides in a Puerto Rico Population of the Fall Armyworm, Spodoptera frugiperda

Yu Cheng Zhu, Carlos A. Blanco, Maribel Portilla, John Adamczyk, Randall Luttrell

ABSTRACT: Evidence of multiple/cross resistance to Bt and organophosphate insecticides in Puerto Rico population of the fall armyworm, Spodoptera frugiperda is reported. The study was conducted to determine if this population has developed resistance to these insecticides.

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