

## **Evaluating Sampling Methods for Two Rootworm Pests, *Diabrotica undecimpunctata* and *Diabrotica balteata*, and Determining Their Relative Abundance in Georgia Peanut Fields**

**A.L. SKIPPER\*** and M.R. ABNEY. Department of Entomology, University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia 31793.

The Southern Corn Rootworm, *Diabrotica undecimpunctata*, is native to the US where it is a serious pest of peanut. The banded cucumber beetle, *D. balteata*, is native to the tropics, but it has expanded its range to include most of the US peanut production area. A recent increase in reports of rootworm injury to peanut in Georgia coincided with anecdotal accounts of large populations of *D. balteata*. This study examined the relative abundance of adult rootworms in commercial peanut fields in Georgia using sweep nets and two different plant volatile lures attached to yellow sticky traps. Banded cucumber beetle adults greatly outnumbered southern corn rootworm adults in sweep net collections and sticky traps at all locations on all sample dates in 2020. The implications of this result on rootworm management in peanut are unknown and require additional investigation. Traps baited with Spotted Cucumber Beetle lure had a higher overall catch rate of both species than traps baited with Banded Cucumber Beetle lure. Compared to the ratio of species abundance observed in sweep nets, Spotted Cucumber Beetle baited traps were biased towards *D. undecimpunctata*. The relative proportion of species collected on Banded Cucumber Beetle baited traps did not differ from that of sweep net samples.