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The efficacy of Vespex® wasp bait to control *Vespula* species (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) in New Zealand

Eric Edwards , Richard Toft, Nik Joice & Ian Westbrooke

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ABSTRACT

Transitioning from trials to pest control tool, the efficacy of controlling wasps Vespula vulgaris and V. germanica using Vespex® wasp bait was tested in 2015. Vespex® is a protein-based bait matrix with 0.1% fipronil. Five sites ranging <300 to >2000 ha and over 5500 ha in total had bait stations placed 300 × 50 m apart and received one application of Vespex®. Wasp nest traffic rates declined 93% in four days at one site, and over 97% after 20–38 days at all other sites. Measured honeydew availability also improved post wasp control. Further demonstrating feasibility, five different agencies worked closely with government leading many programme aspects. Vespex® was made more widely available in New Zealand towards the end of 2015. Web page information showed ~30% of all territorial authorities nationally are engaging in pest

wasp problems. This signals a future potential in the way that pest wasps might be managed in a community context for social, economic and biodiversity conservation objectives.

KEYWORDS:

Vespula germanica | V. vulgaris | pest wasp | wide-scale control | Vespex® | fipronil | protein bait | honeydew

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Disclosure statement

The second author is a director of the company manufacturing Vespex® wasp bait.

Additional information

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