

CABBAGE VOLATILES AFFECTING HOST SELECTION OF ONION THRIPS (*THRIPS TABACI* LINDEMAN)

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Susceptible white cabbage varieties were colonized by a greater number of onion thrips adults than resistant varieties during early cabbage head formation¹. This research suggested that light reflectance of susceptible varieties might have been the cause of the observed thrips preference, but other plant characteristics may also be responsible for onion thrips host selection towards susceptible or resistant cabbage varieties. The objective of the present study was to investigate the response of walking adult female onion thrips to plant volatiles released during early head formation in previously identified resistant and susceptible cabbage varieties. Onion thrips from a laboratory culture were starved for at least 16 hours prior to the experiments. Studies of olfactory behavior of adult onion thrips towards cabbage odors were conducted with a glass Y-shaped tube olfactometer described by Koschier et al. (2000)². Small cabbage heads collected from field-grown plants were used as odor sources. Onion thrips were attracted to the odor of the susceptible varieties ‘Green Gem’ and ‘Quisor’, as well as the moderately resistant ‘Blokto’, whereas the odor of the resistant varieties ‘Balashi’ and ‘Riana’ and the susceptible ‘Hurricane’ did not result in either positive or negative responses by tested thrips.

1. Fail, J., Zana, J. and Péntzes B., *Acta Phytopathologica et Entomologica Hungarica* **43**, 267-275 (2008).

2. Koschier, E.H., de Kogel, W.J. and Visser, J.H., *Journal of Chemical Ecology* **26**, 2643-2655 (2000).