

LIFE PISA in the US

LIFE PISA was presented during October 2015 at two of the major Research Centers of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Center for Grain and Animal Health Research Center in Manhattan, Kansas and the San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Services Center, in Parlier California. Also, the outlines of the project were presented at Oklahoma State University last week (November 2015), by Prof. Christos Athanassiou, who coordinates the LIFE PISA research group at the University of Thessaly, Greece. Prof. Athanassiou will be working at the US until the end of 2015, ARS since September 2015, and, among other research activities, he works with insect trapping and pheromones. The audience was ARS researchers and personnel, but also University Faculty and postgraduate students. "The activities of LIFE PISA, especially mating disruption, were well perceived by the colleagues in US colleagues. It is fascinating to realize how, for a univoltine species, such as the processionary pine moth, which appears once every year, there is a way to suppress its population with no insecticides. Even for us, that work on the project, it is impressive", Athanassiou pointed out. According to the LIFE PISA workplan, non-chemical control of the processionary pine moth will be continued in selected areas in Greece and Italy, which is expected to reduce, apart from moth's populations, allergic reactions, skin irritations and other human health problems that the presence of this species very often causes at the urban and recreational areas.

Mating disruption, which is based only on pheromone dissemination, in order to disorientate males and females from mating, is expected to serve as a useful tool for an ecologically-compatible, reduced-risk control method for urban and suburban pests, where chemical control cannot be applied, not only because it is not effective, but also due to people's demands and complaints. It is based on a minimal amount of a non-toxic gel that is applied directly on the tree once per year and contains the female pheromone; dissipation of this gel occurs rapidly after application due to environmental conditions.

LIFE-PISA
LIFE-PISA: Innovative eco-friendly traps
for the control of pine Lepidoptera in
urban and recreational areas



The composite image contains several elements: a man's profile looking at a screen, a map of Greece with a red-shaded area, and three photographs of pine caterpillars in different stages or colors (green, brown, and orange).

AIMPLAS
SANSAN
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