

**Accomplishments, Highlights and Impacts of FY '05 Projects Funded by the
Texas Imported Fire Ant Research and Management Project**

Project Investigator's Name: Tanya Pankiw

Project Title: Non-toxic fire ant barriers protecting honey bee colonies.

| Significant Accomplishment | Impact on Imported Fire Ant Management |
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| Pankiw T. (2005) Non-toxic fire ant barriers protecting honey bee colonies. Southwestern Entomologist <i>in press</i> . | Tangle-Trap, Insect Trap Coating Paste proved to be significantly efficacious compared to control. As a barrier Tangle-trap barred 87.4% of ants trapped on non-treated control pallets for a 14 day period. |
| Pankiw, T. (2004) Honey bee research at Texas A&M University. November 12, 2004. Texas Beekeepers Association, Arlinton, TX. | Beekeepers were pleased that a non-toxic, readily available product can protect bee from fire ants. The application technique is labor intensive. Beekeepers with a small number of colonies communicated that this is a method that is most useful to them. There are approximately 30,000 beekeepers in Texas, 90% are small beekeepers (<100 colonies); therefore the vast majority of Texas beekeepers were served by this research. |
| Fire ants perceived as potential bio-control agents for the management of the honey bee pest, small hive beetle (SHB), an emerging pest of honey bees in Texas. | Some beekeepers avoid fire ant management practices because they hypothesize that fire ants consume SHB's that pupate in the soil near colonies, thus contributing to control. Falsification of this hypothesis would confirm that at least some fire ant control should continue as a practice. Confirmation of the hypothesis could launch the establishment of an SHB bio-control program in areas where little to no fire ant control is necessary. |
| Source and Amount of Funds Leveraging Current Fire Ant Project | |
| Texas Honey Bee Legislative Initiative: \$35,930. ¹² | |

***Please provide full citations of PI-authored publications for each accomplishment/impact where appropriate.**