

10 – 16 August 2020

Citrus pest

Diaphorina citri, an insect responsible for transmitting a bacterium that causes Citrus Greening Disease, is spreading in Africa, and posing a threat to the citrus industry. *icipe* scientists are researching preventive measures to protect crops from the pest, and have published a paper on the diversity of the population of the psyllid. You can read the paper [here](#).

- <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/Citrus-industry-under-threat-in-East-Africa/1840340-5609578-122aystz/index.html>
- <https://taarifa.rw/chinese-insect-eating-citrus-plants-invades-east-africa/>
- <https://www.farmingbd.com/citrus-industry-under-threat-in-east-africa/>



2020 BIO Africa Convention

icipe's Director General, Dr Segenet Kelemu, will be featured in BIO Africa's Women in Leadership discussion to celebrate women's month. The session is part of the the BIO Africa Convention taking place digitally on August 24-26, 2020. This Convention is an international event that provides a platform to showcase bio-innovations and create an enabling environment for commercialization of African innovations.

- <https://mg.co.za/special-reports/2020-08-14-bio-africa-is-set-to-launch-its-2020-bio-africa-convention-digitally-this-year/>
- <https://newstwenty.review/bio-africa-is-set-to-launch-its-2020-bio-africa-convention-digitally-this-year/>

Locusts

Scientists have identified a molecule that may cause locusts to swarm. The study found that all the locusts examined were attracted to a pheromone known as 4-vinylanisole, or 4VA. Prof Baldwin Torto was interviewed on the implications of this discovery.

- <https://grist.org/food/locust-swarms-middle-east-africa-south-asia/>
- <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/locust-swarms-pheromones-pest-control>
- <https://www.axios.com/locusts-swarm-scent-pests-afcf2e0d-1c02-4e63-8461-138da207506c.html>
- <http://www.envirolink.org/2020/08/12/whats-that-smell-scientists-discover-what-makes-locusts-swarm/>



Neonicotinoid insecticide risks

Prof Torto was also interviewed about collaborative efforts to address the risks posed by neonicotinoid insecticides in Africa. He is part of a team of experts working on policy recommendations aimed at reducing the effects of neonics on agriculture and the ecosystem.

- <http://intranet.icipe.org:8000/intranet/images/stories/communication/news/Nature-Sustainability-Norton-and-Torto.pdf>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41893-020-0571-0>

Agriculture

Afrika Okello, an MSc student under the Insects for Food and Feed Programme, wrote an article on agricultural opportunities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

<https://www.nation.co.ke/kenya/blogs-opinion/opinion/covid-19-chance-for-development-of-rural-areas-1915392>

Social media

Helen Gavaghan Unis Leeds 76-80 & Manchester 02-04 Retweeted

icipe @icipe

50 years ago...

@icipe research started with five target insects: tsetse fly, tick, African armyworm, termite and the yellow fever transmitting mosquito....

Today, we work on many more

Read: icipe.org/Insects-For-Li...

@SciDevNet @SciDevNetSSA @ACTSNET @ntds

10:19 am · 7 Jul 2020 · Twitter Web App

11 Retweets 17 Likes

EnviroBug Retweeted

BioInnovate Africa @BioInnovate · 11 Jun

@BioInnovate Africa June 2020 #photoofthefmonth features edible #Insects that are a rich source of protein. #Crickets #ForNature #WorldEnvironmentDay #Insectipro @HuijbersTalash




Photo of the month: June 2020
Consumption of edible insects as an alternative animal protein source is a potential long-term

bioinnovate-africa.org

Soil Tech Corp 5d ·

"The implementation of IPM practices for onions in the Philippines generated \$23.5 million in economic benefits for the country, according to recent findings by Virginia Tech and ICIPE researchers."

<https://blog.plantwise.org/.../integrated-pest-management-pr.../>



BLOG.PLANTWISE.ORG

Integrated pest management practices bring more than \$12 billion to the developing world - The Plantwise Blog

Klaus Riede @KlausRiede · 4h

@ThermoEnergy4U hier einige interessante Arbeiten die die Ferenz-Studie zitieren onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.10... In der Tat schade, dass dieser Ansatz in D offensichtlich nicht weiter verfolgt wurde!



Pheromones in relation to aggregation and reproduction... Abstract. Desert locusts, Schistocerca gregaria (Forskål) (Orthoptera: Acrididae), exhibit a ... onlinelibrary.wiley.com

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ThermoEnergy4U @ThermoEnergy4U

Replying to @KlausRiede

Danke! Bahnbrechende Forschungsergebnisse zu Pheromonen bei Wanderheuschrecken wurden bereits 1996 von Wissenschaftlern aus #Kenia veröffentlicht am @icipe. Offensichtlich gab es bisher aber kein politisches Interesse, #Masstrapping mit Pheromonen als Strategie zu verfolgen.

2:12 pm · 17 Aug 2020 · Twitter Web App