

Field tests of carbon dioxide and conspecifics as baits for *Mepraia spinolai*, wild vector of Chagas disease

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In spite of extensive evidence showing an association between host stimuli and insect finding behaviour, the importance of carbon dioxide in attracting Triatominae is not entirely understood. We assessed the potential of conspecific individuals and CO₂ in attracting free-ranging individuals of *Mepraia spinolai* in a Chilean semiarid locality. While the presence of conspecific individuals had no effect on the triatomine behaviour, solid CO₂ - baited traps were more effective in attracting *M. spinolai* than control (empty) traps. We conclude that CO₂ trapping is an effective field technique for *M. spinolai* detection and potential control. © 2002 Elsevier Science B.V. All rights reserved.