

Responses of Tabanidae and Muscidae (Diptera) to whole hosts odours

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Abstract

Using a ventilated underground pit, the responses of tabanids and muscids to whole odour of concealed hosts were studied near Khartoum from September 2003 to October 2005. The hosts included cattle, horses, donkeys and goats. Attracted flies were caught in Nzi traps or intercepted in flight by electric nets. Barring goats, whole host odour increased significantly trap catches of tabanids and muscids. Additionally, donkey odour increased significantly the total numbers of tabanids and muscids arriving at the odour source. Downwind: upwind catch ratios at electric nets revealed no significant ($P > 0.05$) downwind bias in catches. These findings are judged relevant to current efforts aimed at development of an effective bait technology to control tabanids together with other biting and nuisance flies associated with farm animals.