ATTRACTION OF *PLECIA NEARCTICA* (DIPTERA: BIBIONIDAE) TO FLORAL LURES CONTAINING PHENYLACETALDEHYDE

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The bibionid fly *Plecia nearctica* Hardy, commonly called the ‘lovebug’, is a widely recognized insect found alongside roadways in all southern states bordering the Gulf of Mexico as well as Georgia, and North and South Carolina (Denmark et al. 2010). In Florida, descriptions of this insect in large numbers coincide with peak seasonal flight periods in Apr-May and Aug-Sep, with a smaller third flight in Dec in southern Florida (Cherry & Raid 2000). While testing for attractiveness of floral-based lures to lepidopteran turf pests in 2011, we noticed a large number of *P. nearctica* adults in traps containing phenylacetaldehyde (PAA), an aromatic compound found in many foods and flowers. Previously described attractants for adult *P. nearctica* include automobile exhausts irradiated with UV-light (Callahan & Denmark 1973; Callahan et al. 1985), localized heat sources (Whitesell 1974) and the aromatic oil anethole (Cherry 1998). However, information on the attractiveness of floral (food)-based lures has not been previously reported for this species.

To investigate this further, we tested traps containing different floral baits that are known attractants to noctuid and pyralid moths in central and southern Florida. Green delta-shaped sticky traps (Pherocon IID, Trécé Inc., Adair, Oklahoma) suspended from 1 m PCV poles (Fig. 1A) were placed...