

TITOLO DEL PROGETTO: Innovative eco-friendly traps for control of Pine Lepidoptera in urban and recreational places

ACRONIMO: LIFE PISA

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PROGRAMMA: ACP LIFE+ Environment Policy and Governance

PROJECT REFERENCE: LIFE13 ENV/ES/000504

COSTO TOTALE PROGETTO: 1.118.232,00 €

CONTRIBUTO UE ASSEGNATO UNIMOL: 72.811,00

DURATA PROGETTO: 3 anni dal 2014 al 2017

CORDINATORE: Asociacion de investigation de Materials Plasticos y Conexas – AIMPLAS (Spagna)

ALTRI PARTNER: BENAKI PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (BPI), Forestry Commission England, Regione Molise, SanSan Agriculture Engineering, Università del Molise, The University of Thessaly

AREA SCIENTIFICA – KEY WORDS: L'obiettivo principale del progetto è mettere a punto e integrare alcune metodiche biotecnologiche per controllare la Processionaria del pino, *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (Den. & Schiff.). Si tratta di un Lepidottero le cui larve si sviluppano su Conifere, pini in particolare, arrecando danni alle piante e causando a persone e animali a sangue caldo reazioni epidermiche e allergiche talvolta molto estese. Le larve della Processionaria sono presenti sulle piante dall'autunno fino alla primavera successiva, quando, raggiunta la maturità, scendono dai tronchi in lunghe file e si interrano per trasformarsi dapprima in crisalide e poi in adulto. La comparsa di questi ultimi si registra in estate, ma una quota variabile di crisalidi può arrestare lo sviluppo e dare luogo agli adulti dopo un numero vario di anni.

The Pine Processionary (*Thaumetopoea pityocampa*) and Pine tree lappet (*Dendrolimus pini*) are moths of the families *Thaumetopoeidae* and *asiocampidae*, and are abundant species found in pine woods in north, central and southern Europe, and an important economic pest and health human and pet problem (allergic, skin illness, etc). The species are notable for the behaviour of its caterpillar larvae, which overwinter in tentlike nests high in pine trees, and which process through the woods in nose-to-tail columns, protected by their everely irritating hairs. Current methods to control this infestation have some limitations to control medium-large amounts of them and/or they are expensive. The main objective of LIFE PISA project is to demonstrate the viability of the combination of several systems currently used to control processionary and tree lappet pest to be applied in different urban or recreational areas in 4 countries (Spain, Italy, UK and Greece), where the air or massive fumigation is not possible. Moreover, it aims to improve current traps systems to increase significantly their effectiveness, reduce cost and to be adapted to each selected demonstrative urban pine areas.