What lies beneath?

Linking litter and canopy food webs to protect ornamental crops

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Author contributions and project funding

1 – Generalist red velvet mite predator (*Balaustium leanderi*) performs better on a mixed diet

K Muñoz-Cárdenas, LS Fuentes, RF Cantor, CD Rodríguez, A Janssen & MW Sabelis

KMC, LSF, RFC & CDR – planned the experiments; KMC & LSF – conducted experiments; KMC, AJ & MWS – analysed the data; KMC, AJ & MWS – wrote the manuscript

2 – Supplying high-quality alternative prey in the litter increases control of an above-ground plant pest by a generalist predator

K Muñoz-Cárdenas, F Ersin, J Pijnakker, Y van Houten, H Hoogerbrugge, A Leman, ML Pappas, MVA Duarte, GJ Messelink, MW Sabelis & A Janssen

KMC, MWS, YvH, HH & AJ – planned the experiments; KMC, FE, JP, AL MLP & MVAD – conducted experiments; KMC, GJM & AJ – analysed the data; KMC, MWS & AJ – wrote the manuscript

3 – Alternative food for litter-inhabiting predators decreases pest densities and above-ground plant damage

K Muñoz-Cárdenas, D Rueda-Ramirez, F Ersin, F Faraji & A Janssen

KMC & AJ – planned the experiments; KMC DRR, FE & FF – conducted experiments; KMC & AJ – analysed the data; KMC & AJ – wrote the manuscript

4 – Single and combined predator releases with alternative food increases thrips control in an ornamental crop

K Muñoz-Cárdenas, A Leman, MVA Duarte, GJ Messelink & A Janssen

KMC, AL, GJM & AJ – planned the experiments; KMC, AL & MVAD – conducted experiments; KMC, GJM & AJ – analysed the data; KMC, AL, GJM & AJ – wrote the manuscript

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