



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

South Atlantic Area
**Center for Medical,
Agricultural and
Veterinary Entomology**

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Gainesville, FL 32604

May 23, 2007

Marisol Wauters
Tech Awards Program Assistant
The Tech Museum of Innovation
201 South Market Street
San Jose, CA 95113-2008

Dear Marisol:

I have been asked to write a letter in support of Bio Gents Gmb H's nomination for a Tech Awards in the Health Category for their new trap technology, which is featured in their BG-Sentinel trap. I have enthusiastically agreed to write this letter because I believe this trap has the potential to help monitor and quite possibly lead to the control of several important vector borne diseases. Specifically diseases associated with pathogens vectored by *Stegomyia* mosquito species such as *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.

I am directly acquainted with this product. I have tested this trap under semi-field and field studies against the two primary vectors of dengue worldwide, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*. I have found it to be the most effective of currently available traps against these species. I want to emphasize that it is orders of magnitude better. It definitely will help manage dengue due to better surveillance capabilities provided by this trap, but I think it also has the potential to help manage the disease through population reduction. This latter possibility is one that we hope to explore soon for *Ae. albopictus*.

I am very familiar with the development of this trap and its associated lure. >From the beginning I have been following the progress of Martin Geier and others involved with the trap's development. I know that Martin has worked very diligently developing, testing and promoting this trap at scientific meetings held throughout the world.

The result of their efforts is a new environmentally safe, scientifically sound, and cost effective technology that has a promise to help control dengue in tropical developing countries. It is definitely an alternative approach to the current approach which relies on insecticidal treatments (fogging and larviciding), which has been extremely ineffective in managing dengue.

I also have been in contact with colleagues that have used this trap in French Polynesia. They are extremely happy with the trap. They believe it has great promise as a population control tool. Their target is another *Stegomyia* mosquito species associated with both dengue and human filariasis.

I also am testing the trap in Egypt with some colleagues to determine its efficacy for collecting phlebotomine sandflies. It is showing great promise. If it does as well as I think it will do, it may also help us manage leishmaniasis.

In summary, I like the BG-Sentinel. I have used it. I plan to use it a whole lot more. I know the scientists, particularly Martin Geier, that have developed the technology. They are very good, reputable scientists.

If there is any question that you might have that I have not addressed, please do not hesitate to contact me (352-374-5933 or dan.kline@ars.usda.gov). I am difficult to get by phone these days because I am in a Wildlife Refuge testing different trapping devices against many different insect and tick species.

Sincerely

Daniel L. Kline, PhD
Lead Scientist, Surveillance CRIS, MFRU
USDA, CMAVE