

Title Biocharacteristics of *Prostephanus truncatus* attracted to flight traps baited with aggregation pheromone.

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### **Abstract**

The biological characteristics of adult *P. truncatus* arriving at pheromone-baited flight traps were investigated in agricultural and non-agricultural habitats of two different agroclimatic zones in Ghana during three contrasting seasons to determine whether the risk posed to stored maize by dispersing *P. truncatus* was likely to vary according to season or the source of beetles. Beetles were trapped live and data on sex ratio, weight, longevity and female reproductive potential were recorded. Comparisons were carried out with beetles cultured in the laboratory on maize. Some of the beetles trapped in the wild lived for almost a year, and females continued reproducing for over half a year in the absence of males. This suggests that most beetles were captured very young, that females were already inseminated and that these beetles would certainly live long enough in the wild to have a serious impact in stores. The traps captured a higher proportion of females than males, and females were heavier. Although some seasonal and locational differences were detected, there was no evidence that these effects would have a significant impact on the biological potential of the pest in the storage environment. *P. truncatus* dispersing in different seasons and in the different habitats can be assumed to have roughly equivalent biological potential.