Softpest Multitrap
Management of strawberry blossom weevil and European tarnished plant bug in organic strawberry and raspberry using semiochemical traps

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**Implementation**
The natural semiochemical mechanisms of sexual attraction and host plant finding of *A. rubi* and *L. rugulipennis* will be further studied and exploited to develop effective semiochemical traps for their management through mass trapping.

Attractive lures for these two species will be combined into a single multitrap with the aim of managing the two pests simultaneously. This will be one of the first approaches to pest management of non-lepidopteran insect pests of horticultural crops using semiochemicals in the EU, and probably the first to target multiple species from different insect orders.

**Background**
The strawberry blossom weevil (*Anthonomus rubi*) and the European tarnished plant bug (*Lygus rugulipennis*) cause large (10 - >80%) losses in yield and quality in organically grown strawberry in central and Northern Europe. The pheromones of *A. rubi* and *L. rugulipennis* have been characterized in England by NRI/EMR. For the attraction of *A. rubi* the importance of combining the pheromones with the host plant volatiles has also been documented.

**Project organization**
The project will be organized in the following work packages:
1) Chemical analysis of plant volatiles
2) Pest insects in strawberry
3) Pest insects in raspberry
4) Trap design and lure development

The project consortium consists of partners from 6 European countries. The project period is 2012-2014 and the project is funded by the ERA-net CORE Organic II.