

The effect of proximity of the release points of the two pheromone components (*Z*)-11-hexadecenal and (*Z*)-11-hexadecen-1-ol of the spotted stem borer, *Chilo partellus* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) on behavior of the males and on trapping efficiency was investigated. Separating the dispensers of the two components in the trap by a mere 3 cm resulted in a threefold decrease in trap performance, compared to very close release of the components. The result is attributed to possible distortion of the pheromone signal, resulting in confused behavior of *C. partellus* males in the vicinity of the trap. The ethological and practical implications of the phenomenon are discussed.