

Burmese python bait screening probe

Pete Savarie

and

Rick Engeman

USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

National Wildlife Research Center

Test facilities

Highly specialized lab space – NWRC headquarters



Test facilities

Large outdoor facilities – Gainesville Field Station



Baits tested

(all commercially available)

(also used for screening tests on Nile monitors)

Beef-flavored dog treat
Coturnix quail egg
Zebra finch egg
Coturnix quail chick (dead)
Squid
Tilapia
Ground turkey
Chicken livers
Neonatal mouse (dead)

Test 1: acceptance using fresh baits

Beef-flavored dog treat	0%
Coturnix quail egg	0%
Zebra finch egg	0%
Coturnix quail chick (dead)	75%
Squid	0%
Tilapia	0%
Ground turkey	0%
Chicken livers	0%
Neonatal mouse (dead)	75%

Test 2: acceptance using baits “aged” for 24h at 85° F and 50% RH

Beef-flavored dog treat	0%
Coturnix quail egg	0%
Zebra finch egg	0%
Coturnix quail chick (dead)	50%
Squid	0%
Tilapia	0%
Ground turkey	0%
Chicken livers	0%
Neonatal mouse (dead)	0%