



News release

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Putting the spotlight on hidden pesticides

A combination of maths and light energy has uncovered the dirt on hidden pesticides.

Mohsen Forouzangohar carried out research to predict the amount of pesticide taken up by or held in soil (sorption) using mid-infrared (MIR) spectroscopy.

The new technique is rapid, inexpensive and uses a routine analysis method.

His research this week earned him the 2009 Australian Society of Soil Science Award for soil science publication excellence.

The award is given for a publication on any subject in soil research for candidates under 35 years of age. It is made on the basis of scientific merit, relevance to soil science and effectiveness in communicating the paper's content to the reader.

The model developed by Dr Forouzangohar has shown promising performance in predicting the sorption of diuron, a broad-spectrum residual herbicide and algaecide, in more than 100 soils along a 400km-transect in South Australia.

According to the Publication Medal Committee, Dr Forouzangohar's work "makes a very important contribution to the measurement of pesticide sorption in soil. It represents a significant advance in rapidly and effectively assessing pesticide sorption based on an integration of a number of soil properties."

The award was presented to Dr Forouzangohar at the South Australian branch of the Australian Society of Soil Science Inc AGM on December 16 at Flinders University.

ASSSI works toward the advancement of soil science in the professional, academic and technical fields.

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