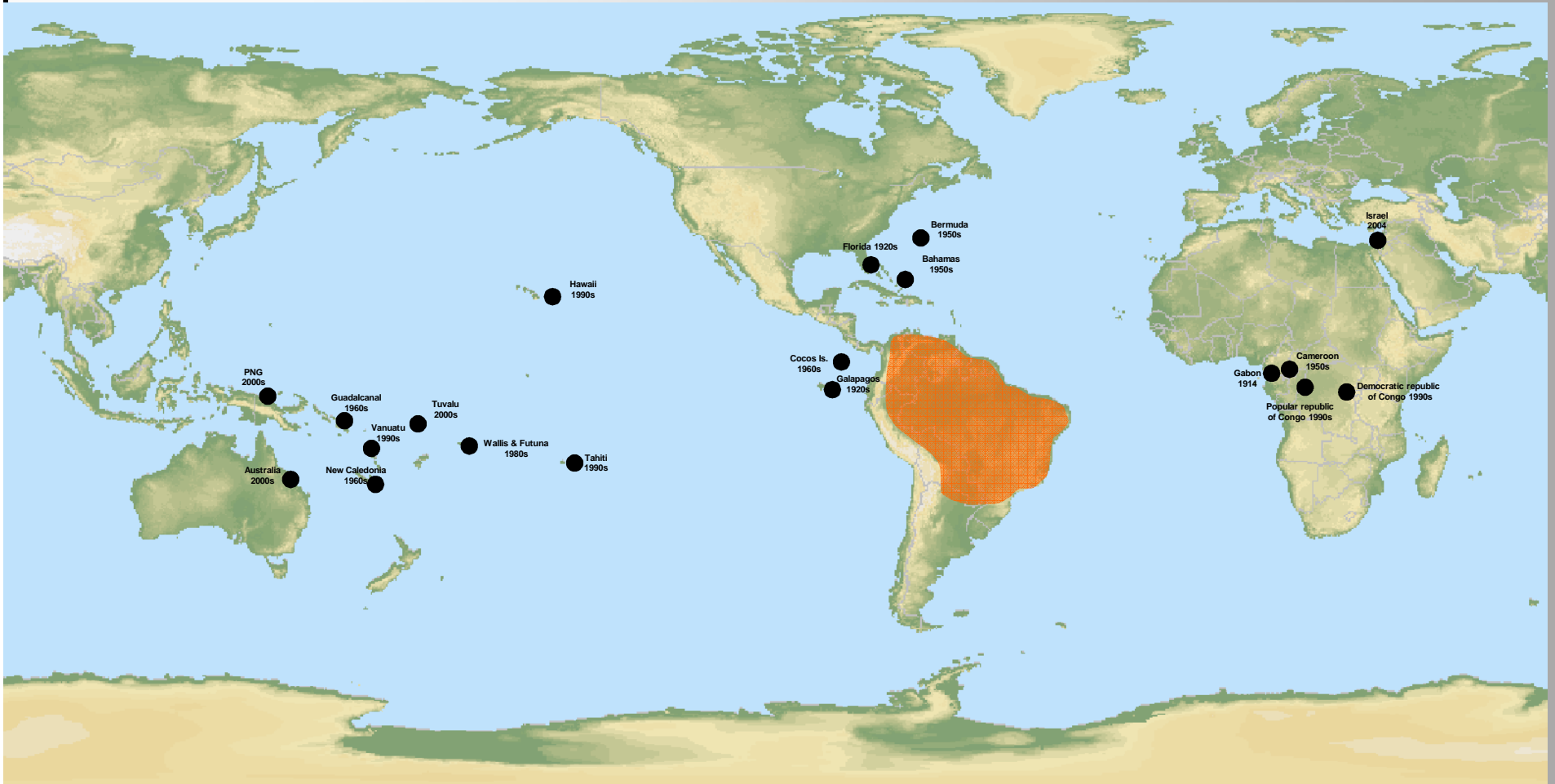


Controlling Little Fire Ants in the Pacific



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World distribution



The problem

- LFA unique among invasive ants
 - Nest in the canopy as well as on the ground
 - Love shade and moisture
 - Thrive in high rainfall areas
- Commercially available baits
 - Tend to target *S. invicta*
 - Predominantly granular
 - Degrade quickly with moisture
- Bait manufacturers reluctant or unable to formulate species-specific products
 - There are exceptions
 - Bait Technology (Xstinguish) (Ag WA bait)
 - Animal Control Technologies (Ant-Off)
 - Sumitomo Australia



The solution

- Develop a bait matrix that is:
 - Specific to LFA
 - A gel or paste
 - Easy to apply
 - Effective

LFA-Specific matrix (gel or paste)



Easy to apply?



www.littlefireants.com

Easy to apply



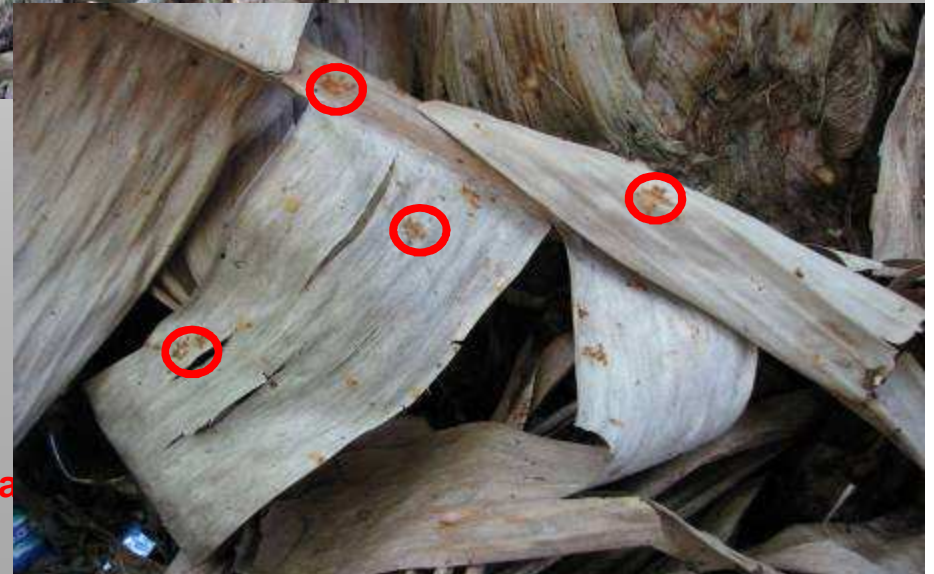
A collaboration between:

- Industrial painting contractor
- Paint-ball gun enthusiast
- Pneumatic-hydraulic supplier
- Dive shop
- Head chef at Caesar's Palace
- Entomologist

www.littlefireants.com



The spackler of death



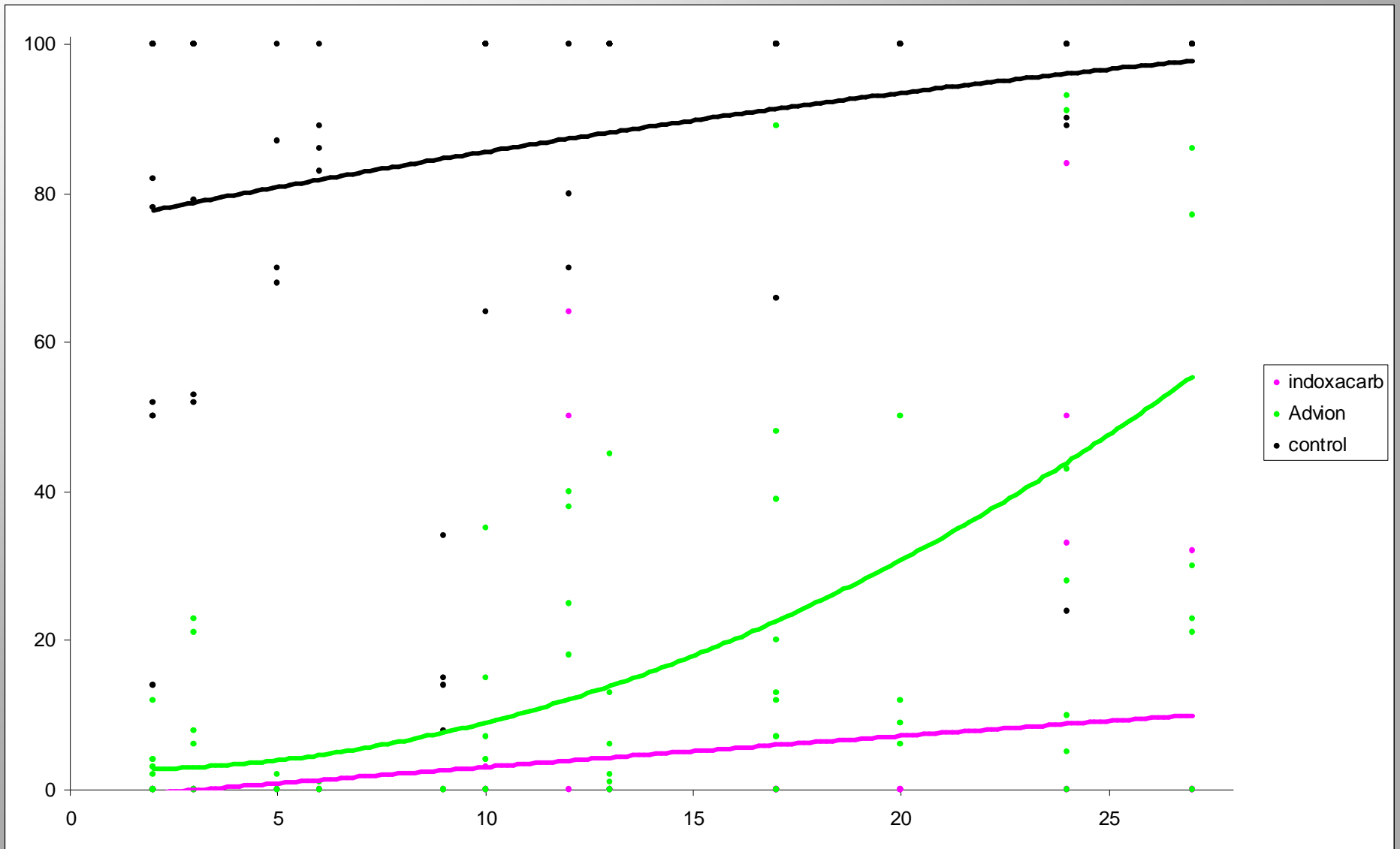
www.littlefirea.com



Broad-acre delivery systems



Effectiveness



2009 – LFA discovered in Maui

- A single property of about 1 acre
- Previously an organic farm
- Strategy –
 - Granular baits applied to ground layer
 - Hydramethylnon in non-crop areas
 - Pyriproxyfen in cropping areas
 - Paste baits applied to vegetation
 - Active ingredient indoxacarb
 - Applied with spackler of death
 - Monthly treatments over 12 months
 - Monitor for 2 years

Results

- After 3 months, could only find a single small nest
- After 6 months, no LFA detected despite intensive survey of entire property



acknowledgements

- Project funding
 - Hawaii Invasive Species Council
 - Hawaii Department of Agriculture
 - Secretariat of the Pacific Community
 - The government of Papua New Guinea
 - Invasive Species Specialist Group
- Project collaborators
 - Brian Nadaeu,
 - Pacific Hydra-Air Hilo, Hi
 - B&B Scuba, Maui Hi.