



# Bt Cotton in South Africa: impact on the insect fauna

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# Bt Cotton in South Africa

- 1996: First field trials
- 1997: GMO act
- 1998-99 : first commercial release of Bt Cotton
- 2003-2004 :

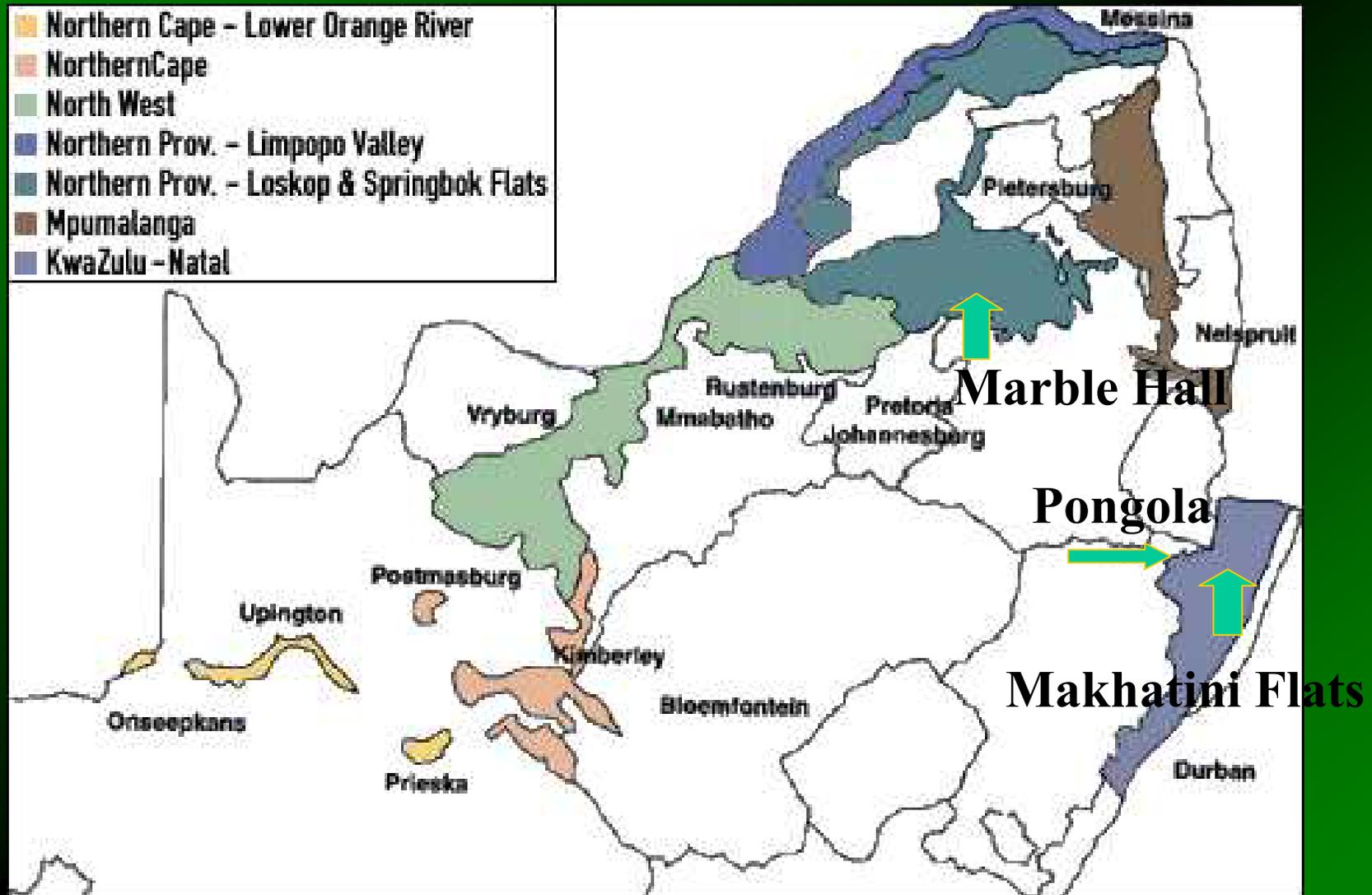
88% of cotton cultivars grown in SA are GM cultivars (81% Bt cotton)<sup>1</sup>.

At the same time, the adoption rate by small farmers in the Makhatini Flats reaches 95 %, Bt cotton only<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> source: ICAC

<sup>2</sup> source: Cotton SA

# Situation of the experimental fields



Map : courtesy of Cotton SA

# Methodology: Marble Hall, 2002

- 4 plots, 1200 m<sup>2</sup> each, unsprayed
  - 2 planted with Opal (classical cotton)
  - 2 with NuOpal (Bt Cotton expressing Cry1Ac toxin)
- Sweep-net sampling
  - 50 m, two levels, every week
- Direct observations on plants
  - 24 plants, every week
- Insect identification :  
Dept. Zoology & Entomology, University of Pretoria.

# Sweep-net sampling :

mean/5 dates

families  
Opal 48  
Bt Cotton 49

insects  
Opal 835  
Bt Cotton 635  
Student  
proba: 0.01

Cible	Données transformées racine carrée (x+1)			
	Moyenne brute	Moyenne	Ecart-type	Student
<b>Arachnide</b>				
Opal	6,75	2,76	0,45	
Coton Bt	4,75	2,22	1,05	0,46
<b>Coleoptères</b>				
Opal	20,75	4,60	0,86	
Coton Bt	16,75	3,84	2,01	0,35
<b>Diptères</b>				
Opal	5,25	2,25	1,27	
Coton Bt	2,00	1,50	1,00	0,35
<b>Fourmis</b>				
Opal	14	3,49	1,94	
Coton Bt	1,75	1,60	0,52	0,12
<b>Hétéroptères</b>				
Opal	51	7,00	1,98	
Coton Bt	27,00	5,17	1,31	0,19
<b>Homoptères</b>				
Opal	84,5	7,96	5,43	
Coton Bt	90,25	8,50	5,04	0,37
<b>Hyménoptères (Macro)</b>				
Opal	1	1,31	0,62	
Coton Bt	1,25	1,36	0,72	0,39
<b>Microhyménoptères</b>				
Opal	10,25	3,27	0,89	
Coton Bt	6,00	2,46	1,14	0,18

# Scouting results/100 plants : Bollworm complex

Cultivar	Opal	Bt Cotton
Bollworm eggs	46.7	48.3
Bollworms	26.1*	0.3*

\* Significant (0.01) before peak of flowering only

# Scouting results/100 plants : Pest complex

Cible	Nb repet	Non Bt			Coton Bt			Student
		Moyennes	Moy-trans	Ecart-type	Moyenne	Moy-trans	Ecart-type	
<b>Nuisibles</b>								
Thrips	9	46,11	5,87	3,77	39,44	4,92	4,28	0,61
Pucerons	9	42,67	5,73	3,49	31	4,95	2,9	0,47
Aleurodes	9	113,8	9,49	5,27	114,8	9,92	4,43	0,73
Jassides	9	981,2	27,57	15,81	1207	31,79	14,91	0,38

# Scouting results/100 plants : Beneficials

Insectes utiles		Non Bt			Coton Bt			Student
Araignées	9	29,89	5,12	2,3	25,78	4,85	1,93	0,78
<b>Coccinelles</b>								
larves+adulte	9	<b>21,89</b>	4,34	2,13	<b>7,44</b>	2,53	1,52	<b>0,01</b>
Chrysopes								
œufs	9	96,78	9,29	3,59	103,11	9,37	4,27	0,94
larves	9							
Anthocorides	9	20,89	4,13	2,33	21,44	4,3	2,12	0,85
Braconides	9	4,89	1,89	1,62	2,22	1,56	0,93	0,6

# Beneficials

(sweep-net sampling in unsprayed plots)

Cultivar	Beneficials (total)	Hymenoptera only	Predators only
Opal	171 a	96 a	75
Bt Cotton	61 b	24 b	37

Stat. Anal. by rank test

# Methodology: Marble Hall, 2003

- 3 plots, 1200 m<sup>2</sup> each,
  - 2 planted with Opal
    - 1 unsprayed
    - 1 sprayed (4 sprays)
  - 1 with NuOpal (Bt Cotton), sprayed as needed ( 2 sprays)
- Sweep-net sampling
  - 50 m, two levels, every week
- Direct observations on plants
  - 24 plants, every week
- Insect identification :  
Dept. Zoology & Entomology, University of Pretoria.



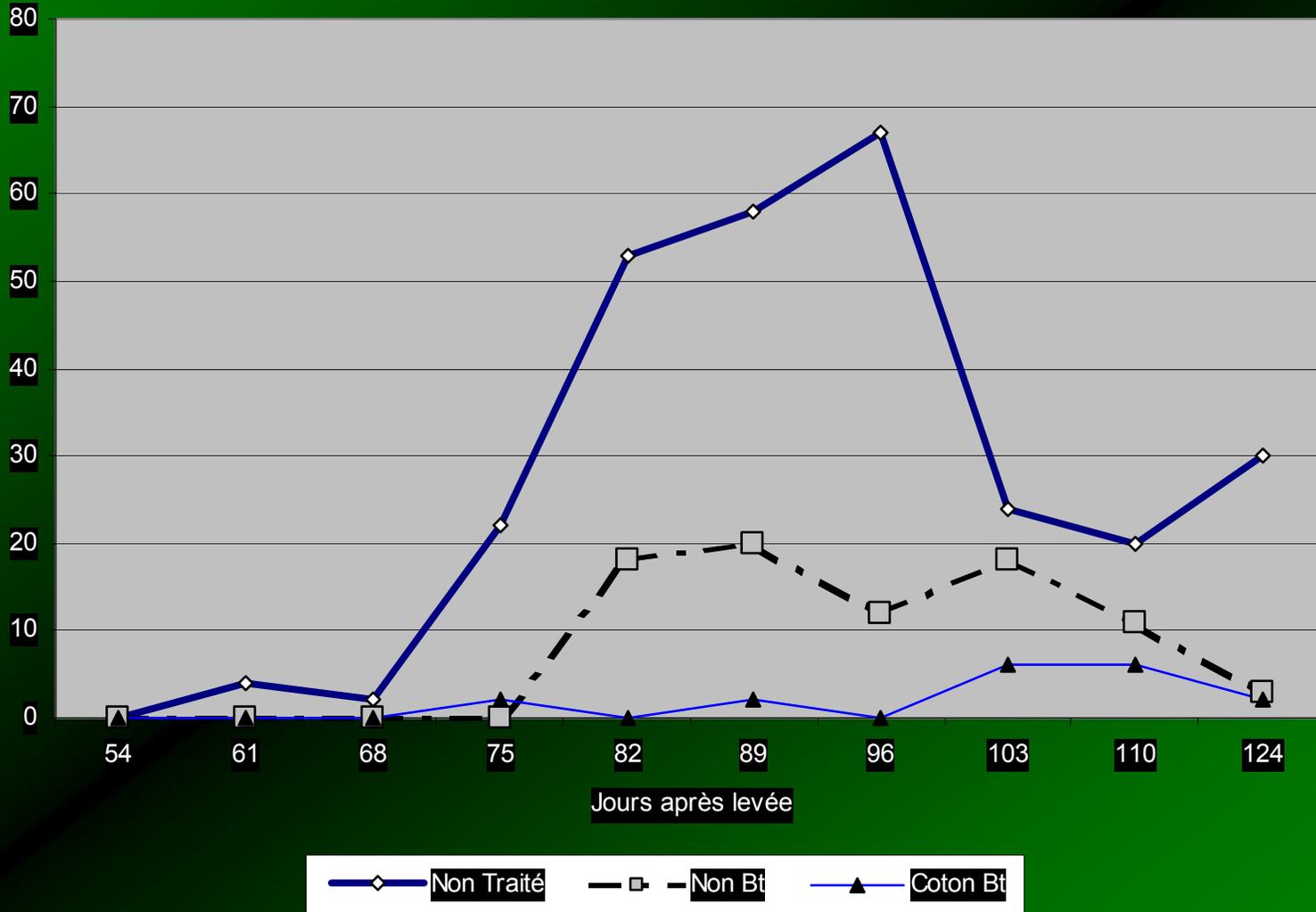
# Scouting (Marble Hall 2003) : beneficiaries

Insectes utiles		Non traité	Non Bt	Coton Bt	transfo	CV	Student
	nb reps	Opal	Opal	NuOpal			
Araignées	10	2,33	3,2	2	Racine	75,1	0,18
Coccinelles							
œufs	6	<b>46 b</b>	<b>16,6 a</b>	<b>9,28 a</b>	Racine	15,4	0,03
larves	10	9,92	8,07	8,18	ArcSin	30,7	0,24
adultes	7	9,65	7,63	8,8	Racine	24,9	0,25
Chrysopes							
œufs	10	46,2	45	34,5		41,4	0,27
larves	10	1,4	0,7	0,3		145	0,12
adultes	10	1,1	0,6	0,2		154	0,14
<i>Orius</i>	6	3	1,83	3,5	Racine	62,9	0,28
<i>Astylus</i>	6	0,4	0,96	0,42	log (x+1)	94,1	0,19

# Methodology (Pongola, 2003)

- 3 plots, 1200 m<sup>2</sup> each,
  - 2 planted with Opal (classical cotton)
    - one untreated
    - the second one with 9 sprays
  - 1 with NuOpal (Bt Cotton), receiving 5 sprays
- Sweep-net sampling
  - 50 m, two levels, every week
- Direct observations on plants
  - 24 plants, every week

# Number of fruiting points damaged by *H. armigera* in Pongola (2003)



## Sweep Net : Insect diversity in a pesticide-including cotton management (Pongola, 2003)

Cultivar	sprays	Families	Insects	Student prob.
Opal	9	39	88 b	
Bt Cotton	5	43	268 a	p= 0.001

# CONCLUSION

- Bt Cotton reduces density and damages of bollworm populations, especially for *H. armigera*
  - *La mise en culture de cotonniers Bt se traduit par une réduction de la densité et des dégâts des chenilles de la capsule, et en particulier de H. armigera.*
- The impact on the non-target fauna seems to be limited to bollworm parasites, except for ladybirds.
  - *L'impact sur l'entomofaune non cible semble limité aux parasitoïdes de la Noctuelle, à l'exception notable des Coccinellidae*
- There is still a need for chemical control on Bt Cotton, but its reduction enhances biodiversity
  - *Une lutte chimique raisonnée est toujours nécessaire sur coton Bt, mais son allègement se traduit par une biodiversité entomologique accrue.*



Thank you for your attention !