Dear Editors of Pest Management Science,

We are pleased to submit our manuscript entitled " Effects of methyl jasmonate seed treatments on adult oviposition preference and larval performance of seed corn maggots (*Delia platura*) in corn (*Zea mays*)" for consideration in Pest Management Science.

In this manuscript we show that corn seeds that are treated with methyl jasmonate (MeJA) show resistance to seed corn maggots at two stages of the herbivore’s life cycle; the adult flies are deterred from oviposition on MeJA treated seeds and the larval performance is lower on MeJA treated seeds. We also adapted the delivery method of MeJA to corn seeds using a conventional seed treatment matrix. Seeds treated with the MeJA using the conventional seed treatment method were also resistant to seed corn maggots further substantiating that this can be adapted for commercial purposes.   
With climate change becoming a substantial threat in the temperate corn growing regions of the world, planting dates of corn is starting to coincide even more with the peak emergence of the overwintering populations of the adult seed corn maggot flies rendering the crop even more vulnerable. We also show that the resistance of MeJA seed treatment to seed corn maggots are effective at temperatures as low as 15C. Lastly, this work was funded by NYIPM to provide an alternative solution to farmers in NY state post the ban of neonicotinoids as seed treatment. Therefore, we believe this work not only validates that MeJA can be used commercially as a seed treatment to combat seed corn maggot herbivory without affecting plant germination and growth, but also opens a new horizon on commercializing MeJA as seed treatment for corn as an alternative to neonicotinoids.

As potential reviewers for this work, we would like to suggest Dr. Flor Acevedo ([fea3007@psu.edu](mailto:fea3007@psu.edu)) and Dr. Lina Bernaola ([lina.bernaola@ag.tamu.edu](mailto:lina.bernaola@ag.tamu.edu)) who are experts on host plant resistance, Dr. Christelle Robert ([christelle.robert@unibe.ch](mailto:christelle.robert@unibe.ch)) and Dr. Ivan Hitpold (ivan.hiltpold@agroscope.admin.ch) who are experts on plant resistance to belowground herbivores.

We also believe that this work is a great fit for the special issue on Chemical Ecology of plant-insect interactions. Thank you so much for considering our work for publication in Pest Management Science.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Thaler,   
Professor, Department of Entomology,  
Cornell University.