CLAIMS

1. A composition for attracting bed bugs, wherein the composition comprises (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises 1 part of (E)-2-hexenal, 2 to 5 parts of (E)-2-hexenoic acid, 1 part of (E)-2-octenal, 1 to 10 parts of 2-octenoic acid and 1 part 2-hexanone.

3. The composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises no other volatile components than (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone.

4. The composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition further comprises a carrier.

5. The composition according to claim 4, wherein the carrier is selected from the group consisting of gelatine, polyethylene glycol (PEG), superabsorbent polymer such as sodium polyacrylate, mineral oil, paraffin and water.

6. The composition according to claim 5, wherein the carrier comprises PEG 4000.

7. The composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises 100–300 mg/l (E)-2-hexenal, 100–1500 mg/l (E)-2-hexenoic acid, 100–300 mg/l (E)-2-octenal, 100–3000 mg/l 2-octenoic acid, and 100–300 mg/l 2-hexanone, based on the total volume of the composition.

8. The composition according to any preceding claim, wherein a dose of the composition comprises 0.1 to 100 g, such as 0.5 to 10 g, such as 0.5 to 3.5 g of the composition, or alternatively, wherein a dose of the composition comprises 0.1 to 100 ml, such as 0.5 to 10 ml, such as 0.5 to 3.5 ml of the composition.

9. The composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the volatiles given off by the composition at a temperature of 20°C and at a standard atmospheric pressure of 101.3 kPa comprises 0.001 to 37.4 % (E)-2-hexenal, 0.01 to 2.2% (E)-2-hexenoic acid, 40.4 to 90.9% (E)-2-octenal, 0.001 to 2.8% 2-octenoic acid and 5.9 to 39.8% 2-hexanone, wherein the sum of the percentages is less than, or equal to, 100%.

10. The composition according to any preceding claim, further comprising an insecticide.

11. A trap for catching bed bugs, wherein the trap comprises or contains (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone, preferably as the composition according to any of the preceding claims.

12. A method of attracting bed bugs, comprising the step of:
i) positioning (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone in a locale where bed bugs are present.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone are provided as the composition according to any of the claims 1–10 or as the trap according to claim 11.

14. A method of detecting bed bugs, comprising the step of
i) positioning (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone, in a locale where bed bugs are suspected of being present.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein (E)-2-hexenal, (E)-2-hexenoic acid, (E)-2-octenal, 2-octenoic acid and 2-hexanone are provided as the composition according to any of the claims 1–10 or as the trap according to claim 11.