VESTARON
THE POWER OF PEPTIDES

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Vestaron Announces No Cross-Resistance of its SPEAR® Bioinsecticide with Spinosad

November 30, 2018 – (Kalamazoo, Michigan) – Vestaron Corporation, a company dedicated to improving the safety, efficacy and sustainability of crop protection through migration from chemical pesticides to biologic peptides, announces today that, despite its SPEAR® peptide targeting the same receptor class as does Spinosad – the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor, insects with resistance to Spinosad do not have cross resistance to SPEAR®.

"The alternate sites and greater surface areas involved in protein-protein binding make it unlikely that any of Vestaron's peptides would have cross-resistance with existing small molecule insecticides," said Bob Kennedy PhD, Vestaron's Chief Science Officer. "Nevertheless, this is a useful confirmation of this principle as it relates to Vestaron's novel SPEAR® bioinsecticide and the existing small molecule insecticide, Spinosad. SPEAR® recently received a novel IRAC mode of action code, confirming that it targets nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in a different way from any existing class of insecticides."

Vestaron is developing the SPEAR® peptide into a family of insecticidal products. The first was SPEAR®-T, which was launched in July of 2018, and targets all four major greenhouse pests – thrips, whiteflies, aphids and mites. The second, SPEAR®-Lep, targets lepidopteran pests for fruits, vegetables, nuts and other high-value field crops. SPEAR®-Lep received EPA approval in September of 2018 and has now been approved in more than twenty states. Additional field products targeting other classes of insect will follow.

"Spinosad has been and continues to be an important product for growers seeking safe and environmentally friendly approaches to insect control, so it has been unfortunate to see resistance start to develop. Importantly, growers now have in SPEAR®-T an important greenhouse rotation partner for managing Spinosad-resistant thrips" said Ben Cicora, Vestaron's new SVP of Sales and Marketing. "We are pleased to provide a novel solution that is equally safe and environmentally friendly and will reset the resistance clock for this very important insecticide target."

About Vestaron Corporation

Vestaron is a company dedicated to improving the safety, efficacy and sustainability of crop protection through migration from chemical pesticides to biological peptides. Vestaron is initially focused on a class of peptides that kills insect pests efficiently, but is safe for humans, birds, fish and the environment. As part of this, the company has developed fermentation-based peptide production and a GM trait platform that will allow it to develop a wide variety of biologic crop protection and trait products. Vestaron is the winner of the inaugural 2015 Bernard Blum Award for novel biocontrol solutions.

More information at www.vestaron.com