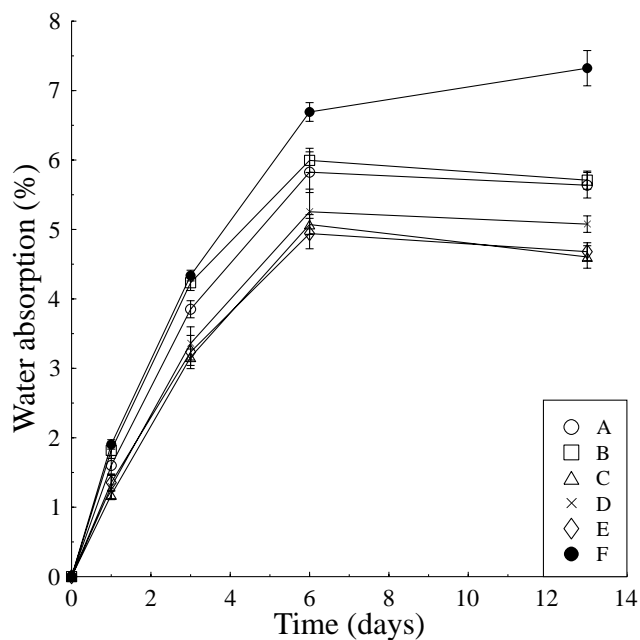


Figure 3. Appearance of dehydrated sardine bait formulations. A—pellets; B—freeze-dried.

Figure 4. Comparison of water absorption of pelletised bait formulations kept in an incubator at 30°C and approximately 70% RH. Mean % weight gain ± SE. See appendix 1 for formulations.



treatments was low (4.9–7.3%), but similar to that recorded for the freeze-dried baits after 120 hrs (Section 5.1). Water absorption differed significantly between treatments at all four time periods. By day 6, the Alcosorb formulation had absorbed significantly more moisture than other treatments ($F = 34.4$, d.f. = 5, $p < 0.001$; Fishers LSD $p < 0.001$). Baits were still very firm by the end of the test, and were still more condensed and hard than freeze-dried baits.

5.1.4 Attractiveness of pellets

Dry pellets and dry freeze-dried baits were not fed on. Unprocessed canned sardines were by far the most attractive bait and rapidly attracted foragers (Figure 5). Wasps foraged actively on the rehydrated freeze-dried baits, but to a much lesser extent on the rehydrated pellets. Due to large differences in the numbers of wasps on the different bait types, no statistical analysis was performed. When the canned sardines were removed, the numbers on both hydrated freeze-dried baits (0.9–2.6 wasps/bait) and hydrated pellets increased (0.2–0.5 wasps/bait).