

Topical Collection

Balancing Nature: Biological Control Introductions for Invasive Insect Pests and Weeds

Message from the Collection Editors

Insects and weeds become problematic when accidentally introduced to new environment without their essential natural enemies that keep them in check in native regions. Introductions of biological control agents to such new invaded areas has historically been the main method for environmentally benign nonchemical approaches to reducing pest populations in the management of invasive insect pests and weeds. This collection invites original articles and reviews for the overall improvement of biological control knowledge of insect pests and weeds. This includes discovery of pest origin, foreign exploration for natural enemies in native lands of pest, importation to containment facilities, pre-release evaluations (e.g., efficacy, host specificity, and climatic adaptability), mass rearing for field releases, and release and documentation of establishments and impacts of introduced natural enemies. Recent cases of importation biological control, success and failure of natural enemy introductions, biology, ecology, behavior, and description of new species of natural enemies will be covered.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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