contrast to the situation in New Zealand, there are native hawkweed species in North America, and so a narrower host range is necessary. To assess its potential field host range, the gall midge is being tested on a range of North American test plant species including native and invasive *Hieracium* spp. using different test designs. North American invasive alien hawkweed species are in the subgenus *Pilosella*, whereas the native ones are in the subgenera *Hieracium* and *Stenotheca*. All those hawkweed species from the subgenus *Pilosella* on which normal gall development occurred in no-choice tests and which were tested under less restricted conditions were also accepted as hosts in these test designs. *Hieracium* spp. from the subgenera *Hieracium* and *Stenotheca* were accepted to a varying extent in no-choice gall formation tests, but not or only to a very limited extent under more natural conditions.

**Our changing perception of Cactoblastis cactorum in North America**

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Control of prickly pear cacti, *Opuntia* spp. (Cactaceae), by the South American cactus moth, *Cactoblastis cactorum* (Pyralidae), is a classic example of successful weed biological control. Unfortunately, in 1989 *C. cactorum* was found in the Florida Keys feeding on endangered *O. coralllicola*. The insect attacks all six native Florida opuntias. The insect was not introduced into Florida as a biological control agent, but most likely as a Caribbean immigrant on ornamental cacti. Of major concern is the potential spread of *C. cactorum* to the opuntia-rich areas of the western US and Mexico. This could have devastating effects on the landscape and biodiversity of this region. In addition, the forage and vegetable opuntia industries in Mexico will likely be severely impacted by this “pest”. This study is addressing three objectives: 1) determine the current distribution and spread of *C. cactorum* in North America; 2) determine the potential impact of native natural enemies on the spread (and possible control) of *C. cactorum*; and 3) explore the potential of the inherited sterile insect technique (SIT) to control *C. cactorum*. The moth’s range continues to expand and now reaches as far north as Charleston, SC along the Atlantic and the Florida Panhandle along the Gulf of Mexico. The moth is spreading most quickly on cacti along the coast. However, infestations noted in the interior are becoming more common. Parasitoids (Tachinidae, Ichneumonidae) found attacking the native cactus moth, *Melitara prodenialis* (Pyralidae), were also found attacking *C. cactorum*, but at lower rates. Irradiation studies have determined the dose at which *C. cactorum* males are 100% sterile and the deleterious effects inherited by the F1 generation minimized. A SIT program may be useful in controlling *C. cactorum* along its leading edge to limit geographical range, to eradicate isolated populations far in front of the leading edge, or as an abatement program to protect rare and endangered *Opuntia* spp.