The South American Biological Control Laboratory (SABCL) has a long and successful history in the biological control of weeds. Since its establishment in Argentina in 1962, the SABCL has worked with 29 target weeds and more than 110 biocontrol candidates; 15 were field released in many countries around the world, while nine are still in quarantine for further testing. Most of the weeds investigated at SABCL are invasive species in the USA, Australia, South Africa and other countries. The first SABCL projects were alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*). A total of 13 natural enemies were studied against these two weeds from 1962 to 1980, nine of which were field released. Currently, 56% of the SABCL scientific staff \((n = 16)\) is assigned to weed research on the following targets: water hyacinth, alligator weed, fanwort (*Cabomba* spp.), Brazilian peppertree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*), balloon vine (*Cardiospermum grandiflorum*), pompom weed (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*), Barbados gooseberry (*Pereskia aculeata*), Brazilian waterweed (*Egeria densa*), water primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala*) and Lippia (*Phyla canescens*). Research on this weed program is funded by the US Department of Agriculture, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia, and the Plant Protection Research Institute (PPRI), South Africa.

Evaluation of foreign plant pathogens for biological control of weeds was initiated at the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the mid 1970s. Justification for locating this research effort at the Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit (FDWSRU), Ft. Detrick, is a containment greenhouse facility that enables evaluation of exotic pathogens of crop plants and weeds. Since transfer to ARS, three foreign weed pathogens evaluated in containment have been introduced into the USA under permit from federal and state regulatory organizations. These pathogens, all rust fungi, are: *Puccinia chondrillina*, *Puccinia carduorum* and *Puccinia jaceae* var. *solstitialis*. The program at FDWSRU has since expanded to include 2.5 research scientists with full technical support. A number of new projects have been initiated, including rust fungi and facultative saprophytes on *Salvola tragus* (two pathogens), *Acropiltion repens* (two pathogens) and *Crupina vulgaris* (two pathogens). A new thrust into the use of floral smut fungi on *Silybum marianum* and *Cardaus thistles* is being pursued as well. Several new pathogens also have been discovered in Greece, Hungary, Russia, Tunisia, Turkey and the USA. This paper is a review of developments, accomplishments and current and anticipated research at the FDWSRU.