The biological control of *Impatiens glandulifera* Royle

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*Impatiens glandulifera* Royle is a highly invasive weed which has successfully invaded almost every riparian system in the UK after its introduction from the Himalayas as a garden ornamental in 1839. Now one of the tallest annual plants in Europe, *I. glandulifera* is able to outcompete native species due to its vigorous growth rates, large seed banks and prolific seed dispersal. When *I. glandulifera* forms monocultures in riparian habitats, the effects on the ecosystem can be severe, potentially causing bank erosion, biodiversity loss and increased risk of flooding. The environment agency estimates it would cost between £150–£300 million to eradicate the plant in the UK. In August 2006 CABI scientists conducted a survey of the natural enemies of *I. glandulifera* in its native range (foothills of the Himalayas, Pakistan). High levels of damage caused by arthropods and fungal pathogens were observed in all populations sampled, and the most interesting agents were collected and shipped back to the UK for further testing. This paper presents the results the work conducted in 2006 and explores further the potential for developing this work into a full biocontrol program against *I. glandulifera* in Europe.