Rearing Insects

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Report

This informal workshop explored some of the challenges experienced in rearing insects for classical weed biological control. In a recent global survey of weed biological control, researchers revealed that problems in rearing were providing significant obstacles during biological control programs, particularly during the early stages of development (e.g. host-specificity testing). Through a mutual sharing of some of the difficulties encountered, and also of some of the novel rearing solutions that have been developed, it is hoped that ongoing and future programs can be improved, and perhaps difficult agents with biological control potential may get a second chance.

During the workshop, it was suggested that it would be useful to have a forum where researchers could exchange information on insect-rearing techniques, problems and solutions. Alec McClay volunteered to set up a forum page at http://mcclay-ecoscience.com/phpBB2/viewforum.php?f=2.

Anyone can read the forum, but to post or reply to messages you will have to register. To do this, click on the ‘Register’ link at the top right of the page and provide the information requested. To reduce spam, Alec has set the site up so that all registrations must be manually approved by the moderator (Alec). Please provide information in the ‘location’, ‘occupation’ and ‘interests’ section so that he can identify you as someone involved with weed biological control or with an associated field of work. He would prefer you to use your real name as your username or signature and will try to approve registrations soon after he receives them.

Please let Alec (biocontrol@mcclay-ecoscience.com) know if you have any problems or any suggestions to make the forum more useful, and feel free to forward this information to other weed biological control researchers.

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