

BALLOON VINE

by

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Abstract

Interspersion open-field tests (continued): Two visits were conducted to the experimental plots in Misiones. The seed-feeding weevil *Cissoanthonomus tuberculipennis* was found feeding exclusively inside fruits of *C. grandiflorum*. **Contarinia** sp.: Good numbers of galls were collected near San Ignacio, Misiones. Emerged adults were sent for identification. *Natural enemies*. *Torymus* sp. (Hymenoptera: Torymidae) were identified as parasitoids of *Contarinia* sp. For further background on this weed see Annual Reports 2004-09 and www.usda-sabel.org.

Research conducted

Interspersion open-field test. Two 8x10m plots, 40 km apart, were set up in Misiones in April 2008, 10 to 300 m away from natural populations of the weed and the agent. In each plot, 4 plants of *C. grandiflorum*, *C. halicacabum* var *microcarpum* and *C. corindum* were randomly assigned. During the reporting period, the plots were visited in Sep 2010 and May 2011.

Results

Interspersion open-field test. Results are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Unfortunately, in Sep 2010, *C. halicacabum* and *C. corindum* plants showed severe frost damage and were not bearing fruits. In May 2011, *C. corindum* was present in plot 1 and *C. halicacabum* in plot 2. As registered in previous visits, *C. tuberculipennis* was found only feeding on *C. grandiflorum*.

Contarinia n. sp? Many galls were collected near San Ignacio, Misiones, and kept in rearing chambers (25±1°C; 60±5% RH; 14:10L:D) for adult emergence. Ten females and one male emerged were sent to Dr. Gagné (ARS-Systematic Entomology Lab) for identification and description. *Natural enemies*. Hymenopteran parasitoids emerged from galls were identified as *Torymus* sp. (Torymidae) by Daniel Aquino (Museo de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina).

Significant accomplishment

The open-field tests keeps providing valuable host specificity information.

Field trips to visit the Misiones field plots

September 21-28, 2010. Mc Kay.

May 8-14, 2011. Mc Kay and Cuadra.

Future Plans

- Additional visits to the field plots to obtain host specificity data of *C. tuberculipennis* and other natural enemies under natural conditions.
- Initiate rearing/testing studies of *Contarinia* sp.

Table 1. Presence of Balloon vine natural enemies in field plot 1.

Dates	Field plot 1		
	<i>C. grandiflorum</i>	<i>C. corindum</i>	<i>C. halicacabum</i> var. <i>microcarpum</i>
Sep 2010	- <i>Phyllacora rimulosa</i> - <i>Puccinia arechavaletae</i> - <i>Gargaphia</i> sp. - <i>Cissoanthonomus tuberculipennis</i> - <i>Moodnopsis</i> n. sp. near <i>perangusta</i> - <i>Chlorostrymon simaethis sarita</i> - <i>Lisseurytomella flava</i>	-no plants available	-no plants available
May 2011	- <i>Puccinia arechavaletae</i> - <i>Cissoanthonomus tuberculipennis</i> - <i>Moodnopsis</i> n. sp. near <i>perangusta</i> - <i>Chlorostrymon simaethis sarita</i>	- <i>Chlorostrymon simaethis sarita</i> - <i>Lisseurytomella flava</i>	-no plants available

Table 2. Presence of Balloon vine natural enemies in field plot 2.

Dates	Field plot 2		
	<i>C. grandiflorum</i>	<i>C. corindum</i>	<i>C. halicacabum</i> var. <i>microcarpum</i>
Sep 2010	- <i>Cissoanthonomus tuberculipennis</i>	No fruits available (Plants killed by frost)	No fruits available (Plants killed by frost)
May 2011	- <i>Puccinia arechavaletae</i> - <i>Cissoanthonomus tuberculipennis</i> - <i>Chlorostrymon simaethis sarita</i> - <i>Lisseurytomella flava</i>	No fruits available (Plants killed by frost)	- <i>Lisseurytomella flava</i>