

## HISTORY

The introduction of invasive species into the U.S. has increased as result of the global commerce, causing major ecological disturbance and economic losses to agriculture, homeowners, and land managers. Invasive species usually lack of their natural enemies, consequently, specific natural enemies released in the U.S. can restore the ecological balance. The successful implementation of this technique produces self-sustaining and biologically based management technologies to control invasive pests.

The South American Biological Control Laboratory (SABCL) was settled in Argentina in 1962 to study the insects to control alligator weed in the US. The success achieved in the reduction of this weed by three insects from Argentina motivated the start of a second project, Waterhyacinth. Several insects were released and are now in many tropical places around the world to control Waterhyacinth.

In total, SABCL has worked with 44 targets and more than 200 natural enemies. At present, projects include weed and insect pests in the US, Australia and Europe. Current US cooperators are located in Gainesville, Ft. Lauderdale and Tallahassee, FL, Albany, CA, Beltsville, MD, Weslaco, TX, Hilo, HI, and Mayaguez, PR. So far, 23 organisms for biocontrol have been developed or co-developed at SABCL and field released. Other organisms are still under quarantine conditions. Administratively, SABCL reports to the USDA-ARS-National Program Staff, Beltsville, MD.

## MISSION

Find, evaluate, and ship to the US and/or other cooperator country biological control agents against selected pests. Provide guidance and logistic support to scientists conducting research in Argentina. Act as liaison with agricultural research agencies and universities for detecting areas of potential cooperative work. Report and publish the results of the investigations.

## ARS TARGETS

**Waterhyacinth**  
*Eichhornia crassipes*



**Brazilian Peppertree**  
*Schinus terebinthifolius*



**Brazilian Water Weed**  
*Egeria densa*



**Water Primrose**  
*Ludwigia hexapetala*



**Waterlettuce**  
*Pistia stratiotes*



**Imported Fire Ants**  
*Solenopsis invicta*  
*S. richteri*



**Cactus moth**  
*Cactoblastis cactorum*



**Little fire ant**  
*Wasmannia auropunctata*



**Harrisia cactus mealybug**  
*Hypogeococcus pungens*



## NON ARS TARGETS

*Cabomba caroliniana*, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*, *Phyla canescens*, *Parkinsonia aculeata* (CSIRO, Australia); *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides* (CABI, UK), *Cardiospermum grandiflorum* (PPRI, South Africa).

## STAFF

### **Director**

Juan Briano  
[jabriano@speedy.com.ar](mailto:jabriano@speedy.com.ar)

### **Secretaries**

Arabella Bugliani  
[arapeard@speedy.com.ar](mailto:arapeard@speedy.com.ar)  
Emilia Seal  
[emiliaseal@hotmail.com](mailto:emiliaseal@hotmail.com)

### **Deputy Director**

Guillermo Cabrera Walsh  
[gcabrera@speedy.com.ar](mailto:gcabrera@speedy.com.ar)

### **Project Leader**

Guillermo Logarzo  
[glogarzo@speedy.com.ar](mailto:glogarzo@speedy.com.ar)

### **Support Scientists**

María C. Hernández  
Luis Calcaterra  
Alejandro Sosa  
Fernando Mc Kay  
Laura Varone

### **Maintenance Staff**

Cristian Otamendi  
Liliana Cruz

### **Interns**

Magalí Dalto  
Marcelo Parisi  
Mery Moore  
Lucila Chifflet  
María González Márquez  
Carolina Mengoni Goñalons  
Eliana Cuello

## BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS DEVELOPED at SABCL and THEIR TARGETS

### 1- RELEASED

*Agasicles hygrophila*, alligator weed, 1964  
*Aminothrips andersonii*, alligator weed, 1967  
*Orthogalumna terebrantis*, waterhyacinth, 1968\*  
*Arcolla malloi*, alligator weed, 1971  
*Neochetina eichorniae*, waterhyacinth, 1972  
*Neochetina bruchi*, waterhyacinth, 1974  
*Niphograpta albiguttalis*, waterhyacinth, 1977  
*Disonycha argentinensis*, alligator weed, 1980  
*Xubida infusella*, waterhyacinth, 1982  
*Neohydronomus affinis*, waterlettuce, 1982  
*Heilipodus ventralis*, snakeweed, 1988  
*Ontherus sulcator*, dung, 1992  
*Gromphas lacordairei*, dung, 1992  
*Penthobruchus germaini*, retama, 1995  
*Thelohania solenopsae*, imported fire ants, 1996\*  
*Evippe* sp., mesquite, 1998  
*Prosopidopsilla flava*, mesquite, 1998  
*Pseudacteon curvatus* I, imported fire ants, 2000  
*Pseudacteon curvatus* II, imported fire ants, 2000  
*Pseudacteon tricuspis*, imported fire ants, 2003  
*Gratiana boliviana*, tropical soda apple, 2003  
*Pseudacteon litoralis*, imported fire ants, 2004  
*Pseudacteon obtusus*, imported fire ants, 2008  
*Megamelus scutellaris*, waterhyacinth, 2010

\*Not deliberate release?

### 2- IN QUARANTINE

*Clinodiplosis alternantherae*, alligator weed, Brisbane, Australia  
*Vairimorpha invictae*, imported fire ants, Gainesville, FL  
*Gonatocerus* spp., glassy-winged sharpshooter, Riverside, CA  
*Coeloccephalopion gandolfoi*, mesquite, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Apocnemidophorus blandus*, Brazilian peppertree, UF Gainesville, FL  
*Chlorosteymon simaethis*, balloon vine, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Cissoanthonomus tuberculipennis*, balloon vine, Pretoria, South Africa  
*Liothrips* sp., pompom weed, Hilton, South Africa  
*Cochylis* n.sp., pompom weed, Hilton, South Africa  
*Adaina* sp. pompom weed, Hilton, South Africa  
*Pseudacteon nocens*, imported fire ants, Gainesville, FL  
*Pseudacteon cultellatus*, imported fire ants, Gainesville, FL  
*Hydrotimetes natans*, fanwort, Brisbane, Australia  
*Thrypticus truncatus*, waterhyacinth, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
*Taosa* sp., waterhyacinth, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
*Systema nitentula*, alligator weed, Brisbane, Australia



Bolivar 1559  
(B1686EFA) Hurlingham  
Buenos Aires - Argentina

Ph./Fax: (5411) 4662-0999  
<http://ars.usda.gov/onp/sabcl>

International Mailing  
(Diplomatic Pouch)

Agr. Couns. ARS Lab  
8130 Buenos Aires PL  
Washington DC 20521-3130  
U.S.A.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
SERVICE



HURLINGHAM  
BUENOS AIRES  
ARGENTINA

May 2010

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer*