

Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents



Past: the aim and the main topics in the history of the WG/SG/commission, convenors and why it started



2007: The IOBC-WPRS Working Group “Benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents” was initially established in recognition of the concerns surrounding the spread of *Harmonia axyridis* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), but its remit was always broader, and has become more so over the years.

2009: Engelberg, Switzerland

2011: Hluboká, Czech Republic

2014: Bornholm, Denmark

2018: Azores, Portugal



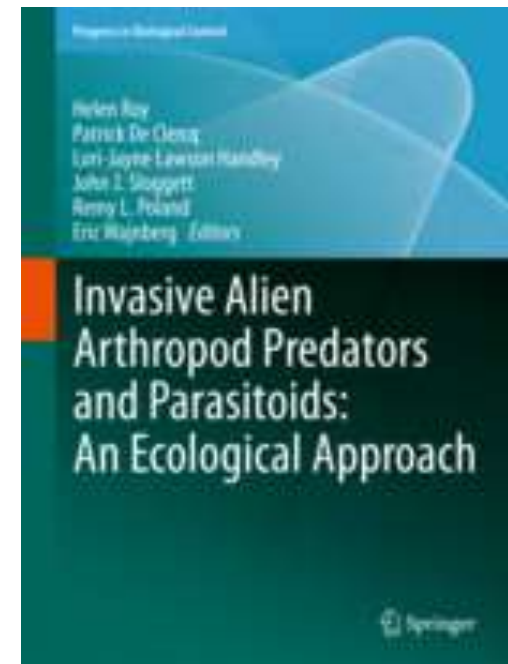
What were the most recent activities and scientific topics discussed?

Following on from the success of two special issues we published a further special issue of BioControl:

BioControl 62(3) “Unravelling the ecology of an invasive ladybird, *Harmonia axyridis*: from populations to communities”.

Twelve papers covering a wide range of topics:

- benefits of *H. axyridis* in crop systems
- community ecology and natural enemies
- population ecology
- risk assessment
- novel approaches to monitoring



How do you see the future of your WG/SG/commission? What are the challenges?

Focus on *Harmonia axyridis*

Increase the taxonomic breadth while still providing a forum for research on *Harmonia axyridis*

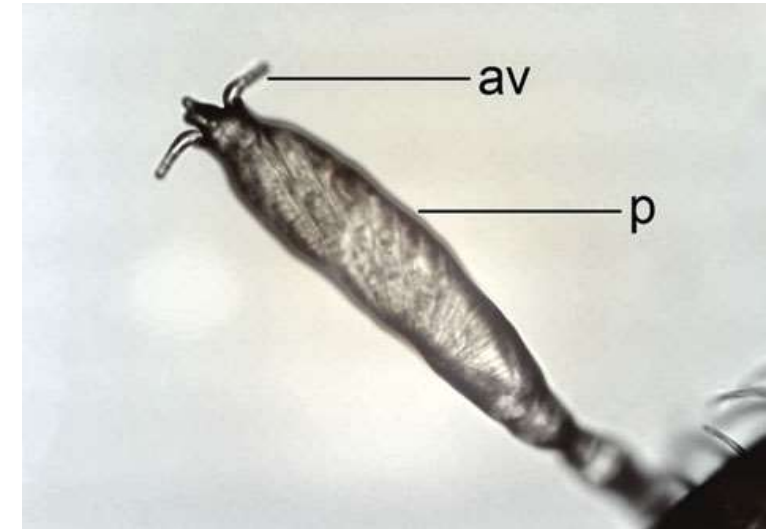
Focus on risks and overlap with invasion biology

Ensure the risks and benefits of biological control are considered

Focus on species

Ensure provision for concepts and approaches such as risk assessment

Newly acquired natural enemies of exotic natural enemies



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All the participants within the WG



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OILB-SROP