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**International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC)**

 Organisation Internationale de Lutte Biologique (OILB)
 

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*IOBC is affiliated with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) as the Section of Biological Control of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)*

## IOBC-Global Newsletter 115 – July 2024

Editor: Joop C. van Lenteren, E-mail: [secretary-general@iobc-global.org](mailto:secretary-general@iobc-global.org)

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**Dear readers,**

**This is the last newsletter I have prepared. Since 2000, with an interruption from 2016-2020, I have served IOBC-Global as president, vice-president and secretary general. I look back at a period during which I made many friends and saw the application of biocontrol increasing word wide. Thank you all for your contributions to our newsletter and keep sending them to [secretary-general@iobc-global.com](mailto:secretary-general@iobc-global.com).**

**Joop C. van Lenteren, Wageningen University, The Netherlands**

## Message from the President



It has been a busy six months for the IOBC Ex Cie in preparation of the 3rd International Congress of Biological Control held in San Jose, Costa Rica from the 24th to the 27th of June this year that we co-convoked with CABI and locally supported by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica (MA&L), and the University of Costa Rica (UCR). The intention of these congresses is to bring together all aspects of biological control and to and move meetings around the world to afford biocontrol scientists and practitioners from different areas to participate and, where possible to leave a biological control footprint behind (seen special section on ICBC3 below). This was certainly the case at the meeting in San Jose as we learnt a huge amount about the diverse biological control activities in Central and South America. I would like to thank

the co-convokers of this meeting, Ulli Kuhlmann of CABI and George Heimpel from the University of Minnesota, KCS Kuhlmann Convention Service, the local organizing committee and student volunteers, the scientific committee, the symposium organizers and session chairs, and all the delegates for making this a very productive and enjoyable scientific meeting.

The IOBC Global supported the attendance of five early career scientists Mélodie Ollivier from the École Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse, France, Gianmarco Minuti from the Vrije Universiteit, Brussel, Samantha Willden from Purdue University in the USA, Reddy Manda from Wageningen University in the Netherlands and Ángel Plata Sánchez from the Valencian Institute for Agricultural Research, Spain. We hope that the recipients of this award enjoyed the congress, learnt a lot and will hopefully stay in the field.

At the meeting in San Jose we took the opportunity to hold the executive meeting of the IOBC Global, the Council meeting and the General Assembly. Here we were able to convey to our members what the Ex Cie has achieved over the last nearly four years and to introduce the new committee who will take up the reins from January 2025. We announced the nominees for these positions in the January Newsletter, but I would now like to confirm the IOBC Global Executive Committee for 2025-2028: President: Dr. Raghu Sathyamurthy (CSIRO, Australia), Vice Presidents: Dr. Rose Buitenhuis (Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Canada), and Prof. Vanda Bueno (Department of Entomology, Federal University of Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil), Secretary General: Dr. John Holland (Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, United Kingdom), Treasurer: Dr. Pablo Urbaneja-Bernal (Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology, Cabriels, Spain), and I will stay on as Past President for the next four years. We wish the committee well for their tenure.

For the last four years the Ex Cie have been working in the back ground to change the statutes of the IOBC to allow us to register as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. We felt that this was needed as it has important tax implications, and in many ways will facilitate the moving of money around the world, which is becoming increasingly difficult. Joop van Lenteren has been working tirelessly with lawyers through this very arduous and complicated process, with the guidance of the IOBC-WPRS. I am happy to announce that as of yesterday (22nd of July 2024) the IOBC is now registered as a non-profit, non-governmental organization. Well done to Joop, what a wonderful finish to your tenure as Secretary-General and your 20 year contribution to the Executive Committee of the IOBC. I would like to thank you and the rest of the committee for your support of my time as President, I certainly could not have done what we have achieved without you.

Martin Hill

## Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3)



The 3rd International Congress of Biological Control was held in San Jose, Costa Rica from the 24th to the 27th of June this year and was co-convened with CABI and locally supported by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica (MA&L), and the University of Costa Rica (UCR) (**photo below with representatives of Costa Rican organizations at the opening session**).





We learnt a huge amount about the diverse biological control activities in Central and South America. The congress attracted 320 delegates of 40 countries to an excellent venue, where the science was of a high standard and the debate robust. There were six excellent plenary papers covering the entire value chain of biological control that really set the scene for the congress, where 162 papers and 52 posters were presented. A highlight were the two panel sessions, the first one on day one entitled: What needs to be done to improve the uptake of biological control? A multi-stakeholder perspective. Here the panellists discussed developments in the more commercial side of the discipline, and concentrating on South and Central America. It was fascinating to see how different countries handled the bureaucratic side of biological control and drove the development of biocontrol products in those countries.



*Opening session ICBC3, San José, Costa Rica, June 2024*

The second panel discussion on the final day dealt with a very similar topic, but in this dealt with what are the enablers and challenges to classical biological control. The take home message from this panel discussion was that, unlike augmentative biocontrol (including biopesticides) that is largely driven by the end user, classical biological is largely driven by the scientists doing the research and much more is needed to ensure mainstream uptake of the technology. I would like to thank the co-conveners of this meeting, Ulli Kuhlmann of CABI and George Heimpel from the University of Minnesota, KCS Kuhlmann Convention Service, the local organizing committee and student volunteers, the scientific committee, the symposium organizers and session chairs, and all the delegates for making this a very productive and enjoyable scientific meeting.

## Reports receivers IOBC travel awards to attend ICBC3

### Gianmarco Minuti, Vrije Universiteit, Brussel, Belgium



The 3rd Congress of Biological Control in San Jose, Costa Rica, has been an enriching experience from both a scientific and networking perspective. Coming from a background in plant ecology and entomology, focusing mostly on weeds biological control, I found the diversity of talks to be very informative and, at times, eye-opening for my own research. I followed with particular interest the sessions related to insect-plant interactions, risk assessment, climate change and the advances in the use of molecular tools. I was also pleasantly surprised by the array of talks bridging the boundaries between the science of biocontrol, the policies needed for its implementation, and the need to raise public awareness and community engagement around this discipline.

As a last year PhD student, this congress was a great opportunity to showcase my latest results to a wide and enthusiastic audience. It allowed me to connect with researchers from different countries and institutions, reinforcing existing networks and creating new collaborations, which will certainly have an impact on my future career. I would like to once again thank the IOBC Committee for granting me the travel award that made my participation in the conference possible.

### Melodie Ollivier, École Nationale Supérieure Agronomique de Toulouse, France



As a young career scientist, I attended the third International Congress of Biological Control. I appreciated that this congress gathered scientists from around the world to share their high-quality, cutting-edge research on all aspects of biological control. The reasonable size of the congress made it easy to meet and exchange ideas with experienced scientists willing to share their expertise. Biological control was explored through a wide range of disciplines. I attended a diverse array of presentations, broadening my perspective on potential directions for my research. These sessions also helped me identify new avenues for data analysis, such as delving deeper into ecological network descriptions and analyses. I established valuable contacts with potential collaborators who could guide and advise me on certain methodological approaches I am looking to implement today or in future projects. Despite my less extensive experience in the field, I suggested



methodological or analytical approaches to PhD researchers and gradually found my place within this scientific community.

Finally, I attentively followed the discussions during the last half-day regarding the difficulty we face in Europe, particularly in France, in making the credibility of Classical Biological Control (CBC) known and recognized. I share the view that this practice has a bad reputation, mainly due to a lack of knowledge about the foundations of CBC, the numerous safeguards currently in place (specificity and efficacy tests), and the advances made possible by research. These discussions resonated with my own practices, as I have noticed similar prejudices among students regarding this approach, and I strive to counteract them through my teaching. In the context of agricultural transition, where we aim to eliminate the use of pesticides, better communication about CBC to the general public is urgent and essential."

### Angel Plata, Valencian Institute for Agricultural Research, Spain



I feel very happy to have had the opportunity to participate in the Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3) in San José, Costa Rica.

This congress took place in an incomparable setting surrounded by wonderful nature, where the passion for entomology could be felt in every corner. I was fortunate to meet many of the researchers I have always admired and attend many nice talks that I am sure will enhance my research in the future. I also had the opportunity to present my work "Unravelling the factors determining

the efficacy of mealybug parasitoids", in which I synthesized some chapters of my doctoral thesis. It served to share this knowledge with international researchers who provided great feedback on my work (and which will surely help me feel more confident when I defend my thesis next month!). Attending the congress also served to network with researchers working in similar areas and to establish future collaborations. It was also very inspiring to learn about the works in other fields who gave me super cool ideas.

On a personal note, I met wonderful people from different cultures with whom I had a great time. Many thanks to all the 'maes' from Costa Rica for their super kindness; you feel at home there. Finally, I also had a couple of extra days to visit some natural parks, continue enjoying delicious food, and observe animals I had only seen in documentaries! In one week, I had time to be robbed by a monkey, threatened by a raccoon, and feel a small earthquake, so I think it was quite a complete experience.

I would like to express my immense gratitude to the IOBC for granting me the travel award, which allowed me to attend this conference and have such an enriching experience that will surely enhance my scientific career in the future.



### Raghavendra Reddy Manda, Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands

Attending the Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3) organized by IOBC-Global and CAB International in San José, Costa Rica, was nothing short of transformative. This gathering of researchers and industry experts presented an excellent platform for exchanging the latest developments in the field of biological control. As a young researcher, presenting my work at this prestigious

conference was a fantastic opportunity. I enjoyed the program that included several key note addresses, panel discussions, 23 thematic oral sessions, and a poster session exploring a broad range of topics within the field of biological control, covering the latest research, innovations, and applications. IOBC-Global Travel Award was instrumental in making my participation possible. This support was not merely financial; it was also a profound endorsement of the importance of nurturing young scientists in our field.

At ICBC3, I got the opportunity to individually meet several researchers and industry experts. These connections are invaluable, significantly contributing to my professional growth and inspiring new perspectives in my research. Aside from the conference sessions, attending the IOBC-Global General Assembly was also an amazing experience. I gained insights into the wonderful achievements of the outgoing executive committee and learned about the goals of the new committee. Sharing my thoughts with the executive committee was a unique experience, reinforcing the sense of community and shared purpose within the IOBC. For me, this was my first international conference, and it was an experience that far exceeded my expectations. The stimulating and rewarding nature of ICBC3 broadened my understanding of biological control and provided numerous opportunities for professional development. I am profoundly grateful for the IOBC-Global Travel Award, which made this journey possible. As I look forward to applying the knowledge gained, I carry with me the inspiration and support of a global community dedicated to making a difference. Already looking forward to ICBC4.

**Samantha Willden, PhD, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Purdue University, USA**



What I learned at the meeting: My most important takeaways from the ICBC3 meeting were 1) how I can improve biocontrol research in my field (e.g., consistent units, better ID, better ways to sample for and quantify impacts of biocontrol agents) that will improve adoption and reliability of biocontrol control by my stakeholders, 2) IOBC working groups that I can join in my field (super excited about this), and 3) names and contact information for future collaborators. As an early career professional, attending this meeting was so important to expand my perspective of biocontrol from the farm to global scale and to cement relationships that I hope to carry throughout my career.

## Report General Assembly 24 June 2024 San José, Costa Rica



During ICBC3, the Executive Committee and Council of IOBC-Global met on 23 July and we held our General Assembly on 24 June. The meeting was well attended and our President, Martin Hill, presented an overview of activities of Global during the past four years. Below, you may find a summary of the issues mentioned and discussed during the General Assembly.



**Executive Committee meeting June 2024. Left to right: Alejandro Tena, Joop van Lenteren, Ronny Groenteman, Martin Hill, George Heimpel**



**Council meeting June 2024. Left to right: Lara (RS), Bardin (observer), Grabenweger (WPRS), Hill (ATRS), Tena (Global), van Lenteren (Global), Heimpel (Global), Groenteman (Global), Sathyamurthy (ATRS), Cingolani (NTRS)**



## Summary of issues presented and discussed at the General Assembly



**Attendants General Assembly of IOBC-Global, 24 June 2024, San José, Costa Rica**

### ***Achievements of the Executive Committee 2020-2024***

- Participation in meetings of International organisations, like FAO and CBD (several large projects related to Access and Benefit Sharing, Nagoya Protocol, Role of Biological Control in sustainable agriculture, Report: Sustainable use and conservation of microbial and invertebrate biological control agents and microbial biostimulants)
- Co-organization and running of ICBC 2 Davos meeting as virtual meeting with CABI
- Co-organization and running of ICBC 3 San José meeting with CABI
- Financially supporting and organization of five IOBC symposia during the International Congress of Entomology Helsinki, Finland, 2022
- Financially supporting two training courses (Ecuador and Pakistan)
- Financially supporting young career biocontrol workers to participate in ICBC2 in Davos (Switzerland), and ICBC3 in San José (Costa Rica).
- Financially supporting young career biocontrol workers to participate in IOBC-Global working group meetings
- Publication of the book *Biological Control In Latin America and the Caribbean: Its Rich History and Bright Future*. CAB International, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, UK, 522 pp. ISBN-13: 9781789242430 (English (2020) and Spanish (2022) version)
- Contributions by IOBC members to the book *Augmentative biological control*. In *Biological Control: Global Impacts, Challenges and Future Directions of Pest Management* (Ed PG Mason) CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne (2021)



*Belated, post-covid presentation of the book *Biological Control In Latin America and the Caribbean* by the Secretary General of IOBC-NTRS (Lorena María Barra Bucarei) and Global (Joop C. van Lenteren).*

***Ideas for period 2024-2028***

- Stress wherever possible the positive effects of biocontrol. Document positive effects related to pest management, reduction of pesticide use, reduction of environmental pollutions, increase of biodiversity
- Collect and publish benefit/cost analyses of biocontrol projects based on proper economic analyses
- Collect and publish data about improved biodiversity/improved cropping systems as the outcomes of controlling pests and weeds by means of biocontrol
- Assist biocontrol workers in dealing with bureaucracy related to import/export of biocontrol agents, ABS/Nagoya protocol, stimulate harmonization of regulations, be pro-active with legislation
- Integrate indigenous knowledge into biocontrol
- Stimulate collection of information about new (potentially) invasive organisms and ways how to deal with these organisms without having to resort to pesticides in order not to disrupt presently used biocontrol/IPM systems
- Provide data on IOBC website about introductions and success of biological control agents for weed, disease and pest control based on existing BIOCAT and weed biocontrol databases:
- Collect and provide data on IOBC website on specificity of biocontrol agents (among others data on prey/host ranges)
- Provide information on IOBC website about ABS and Nagoya protocol
- Pay attention to the role of AI in biological control
- Organize a way in which young IOBC members can have their say in IOBC
- Develop IOBC podcast
- Consider to organize future IOBC meetings and training courses both on site and with the possibility to attend online

***Financial situation***

During the last four years IOBC Global has been able to support (1) the meetings of the IOBC-Global Working Groups, as well as those of the current Study Group on Classical Weed BC, and the Commission on BC and Access and Benefit Sharing, (2) other meetings focused on biological control, (3) the editorial board of our scientific journal BioControl, (4) several biocontrol training courses around the World, and (5) the registration of IOBC-Global as NGO in Switzerland. The expenses per year during this period have varied from 26.000 € in 2021, a year with no physical meetings due to the pandemic, to about 65.000 €, a year with a number of physical meetings including the congress in Costa Rica. Our income has remained constant at around 45,000€ per year. The income has mostly come from the contract with Springer, the publisher of BioControl, but also from the contribution of the different Regional Sections, mostly from WPRS. It is very satisfying to be able to conclude that the financial situation of IOBC-Global looks healthy.

Alegandro Tena, treasurer

***Reports Regional Sections***

Most regions are active. However, some have few members and should try to increase membership. Information about the boards and activities of the Regional Sections can be found on our website IOBC-Global.org. The president thanked all board members for their voluntary and important contributions to IOBC.

**Reports IOBC-Global Working Groups**

Most of the Global working groups have meetings every two or three years; see the Global website for convenors and meeting dates. Activities of one of the Global working groups overlapped with those of a Regional working group; therefore, the Global working group Benefits and Risks Associated with Exotic Biological Control Agents terminated its work and activities will be continued by the IOBC-WPRS working group with the same name. The president acknowledged the importance of our working groups and commissions. He thanked Dr. Peter Mason, the retiring convenor of the commission on Access and Benefit Sharing for his contributions during the past decade.

**Journal BioControl (Eric Wajnberg - Editor in Chief)**

See separate report from the Editor in Chief elsewhere in this newsletter. The president of IOBC-Global thanked Eric and his assistant editors for all their excellent work during the many years they are running the journal.

**Appointment of Honorary Members**

Two proposals, one for Dr. Fred Bennett and the other for Dr. Cliff Moran, were approved by the Council and the General Assembly.

Fred Bennett



Cliff Moran

**New Statutes IOBC-Global**

The new statutes of IOBC-Global (see [IOBC-Global.org](http://IOBC-Global.org) for the latest version) were approved by the Council and the General Assembly.

**Not-for-profit, non-governmental organization status of IOBC-Global**

During the past four years, Global has worked together with IOBC-WPRS to obtain the not-for-profit, non-governmental organization status, which appeared to be a tedious, time-consuming and expensive process, but ... shortly after the IOBC-Global Costa Rica meetings, where we finished the last documents needed for the application, we were informed that we obtained this status.



***Election Ex Cie 2025-2028***

The Election Committee consisting of Barbara Barratt (NZ) and Philippe Nicot (F) collected and analysed responses to the voting request. They received 52 replies from members from 23 countries. The replies can be summarized as a unanimous vote with all 52 responders in agreement. Responses were received from members of APRS (13), ATRS (1), NRS (3), NTRS (7), WPRS (28). The Council and General Assembly approved the election of the new Executive Committee

***New President introduces new Executive Committee and presents his initiatives for period 2025-2028***

Dr. Raghu Sathyamurthy, the newly elected president presented some of his ideas for the coming four years of IOBC-Global. In summary, he mentioned:

***Advancing novel science and its applications***

- New ways of thinking about the roles of biocontrol as new 'omics and digital waves wash over us
- Working with national and international regulatory contexts to demonstrate value in new ways

***Sustainability of the membership base for our IOBC Sections***

- Creating more value for our members across our less active Regional Sections

***Biological control in the Global South***

- Greater visibility of the discipline (e.g. through a higher frequency of major and WG meetings)
- Greater delivery of value through biocontrol

At the end of his presentation, he thanked the members of the outgoing Executive Committee for their activities during the past four years.

J.C. van Lenteren, 24 June 2024, San José, Costa Rica

## Executive Committee 2025-2028

During the General Assembly of IOBC-Global in Costa Rica, the new Executive Committee for the period 2025-2028 was elected. We are happy to announce the new members of the Executive Committee. For short biographies and motivations, see Newsletter 114, December 2023 on IOBC-Global.org)



**President: Dr. Raghu Sathyamurthy (CSIRO, Australia)**



**Vice Presidents: Dr. Rose Buitenhuis (Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, Canada) and Prof.dr. Vanda Bueno (Department of Entomology, Federal University of Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil)**



**Secretary General: Prof.dr. John Holland (retired, previously working at the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, United Kingdom)**



**Dr. Pablo Urbaneja-Bernal (Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology, Cabrils, Spain)**



**Past President: Prof. dr. Martin Hill (Rhodes University, South Africa)**

## **IOBC needs your help**

### **Worldwide education in biological control**

IOBC Global often receives questions about education and training possibilities for biological control. With the help of our Regional Sections and Working Groups, we are frequently able to help finding answers, but it is not always an easy and quick procedure. **Therefore, we ask you to provide information about education and training opportunities.** We will summarize this information and publish it on the Global website. Please present the information to [secretary-general@iobc-global.org](mailto:secretary-general@iobc-global.org) as follows:

- Name of course / training:
- Institute / organization providing this course:
- Course period and length of course in days:
- Costs of course:
- Entrance requirements.

## **Upcoming meetings of IOBC-Global Working Groups**

### **Mass Rearing and Quality Assurance (MRQA)**

Contact: Rose Buitenhuis; Email: [Rose.Buitenhuis@vinelandresearch.com](mailto:Rose.Buitenhuis@vinelandresearch.com);

**Next meeting planned for 2025 in the United States of America, see the website of this Working Group for more information**

### Ecology of Aphidophaga

Contact: J.P. Michaud; Email: [jpmi@ksu.edu](mailto:jpmi@ksu.edu)

**Next meeting to be held at the Università di Bologna, in Bologna, Italy, from 8-12 September, 2025. The local organizer is Dr. Laura Depalo ([laura.depalo@unibo.it](mailto:laura.depalo@unibo.it))**

### Biological Control and Management of *Parthenium* Weed

Contact: Lorraine Strathie; Email: [strathiel@arc.agric.za](mailto:strathiel@arc.agric.za)

**The Fourth International Workshop of the IOBC Working Group on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed will be held from 2-5 March 2025 in Bangladesh.**

## Biocontrol related events



### ICE2024

Japan will host the **XXVII International Congress of Entomology** from August 25 – 30 in 2024, in Kyoto, Japan.

For more information on the congress:  
<https://ice2024kyoto.jp>

### XVII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds (ISBCW 2026)

Rotorua, Aotearoa New Zealand

The International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds (ISBCW) is the most important event for weed biocontrol scientists from all over the world. Approximately every four years, this gathering provides an opportunity for participants to exchange advances, renew ties of friendship, develop new collaborations, and discuss the way forward.

Since its inception in 1969, the symposium has become an essential meeting point for all those involved in weed biocontrol activities.

Join us for the next symposium and be part of this vibrant exchange of ideas, innovations, and developments.



**Website:** <https://isbcw-rotorua.com>; [https://www.iobc-global.org/global\\_wg\\_Classical\\_Weed\\_BC.html](https://www.iobc-global.org/global_wg_Classical_Weed_BC.html)



Please see the complete lists of upcoming events related to biocontrol activities at the website of IOBC Global: [www.IOBC-Global.org](http://www.IOBC-Global.org), and of IOBC-WPRS: <https://www.iobc-wprs.org/events/index.html#20210908>

## News from the Editor of BioControl

### Indices and Impact Factor

The situation in 2023 appeared to be improved compared to the previous year. The journal received around 300 MS and there was an increase in the number of papers (and pages) we published. The last impact factor we got was 2.5. The next impact factor (for 2023) will be released in June. The proportion of ‘0-cited’ articles (i.e., articles that are never cited in the literature) remains stable (i.e., slightly below 25%).

However, we still need more accepted MS, which means more MS submitted. Ideally, we need to increase the number of papers cited in the international literature, which means – among other things – to publish more review articles and more Special Issues (see below). This will boost the Impact Factor, which in turn will attract more MS submissions, etc.

### Review articles

Last year (2023) we published 10 review articles, but 9 of them were in a Special Issue. So, actually only one review was published “independently”. This is not enough. The entire editorial board is looking for potential authors willing to submit review articles to BioControl. Ideally, it would be good to have at least three review articles per year (one every two issues), or even more.

### Special Issues

One Special issue was published in 2023 (June issue) coming from a IOBC Global Working Group (ABS and the Nagoya protocol; guest editors: P. Mason & B. Barratt). One was just released in 2024 (June issue) on “Biological Control of Weeds and Arthropods” (guest editors: P. Mason & M. Schwarzländer), and another one is planned for 2024 on conservation biological control of stinkbugs (guest editors: F. Congolani & R. Laumann). Here too, it would be good to have other Special Issue proposals.

### Miscellaneous issues

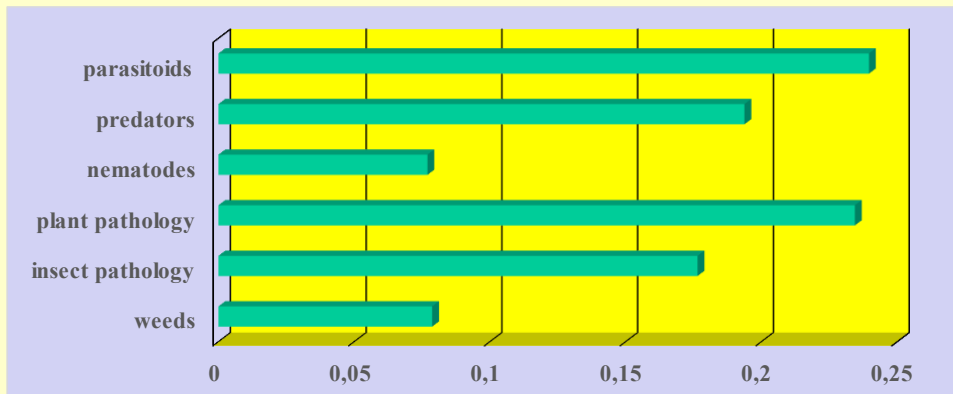
The MS handling time (from first submission to first decision) is still stable (less than two weeks, on average, before the first decision), which is a good indicator of the journal’s good health.

Finally, finding referees is becoming more and more difficult, as this is also the case for all international journals. Springer offers now a referees-seeking tool that should help.

Eric Wajnberg, Editor in Chief

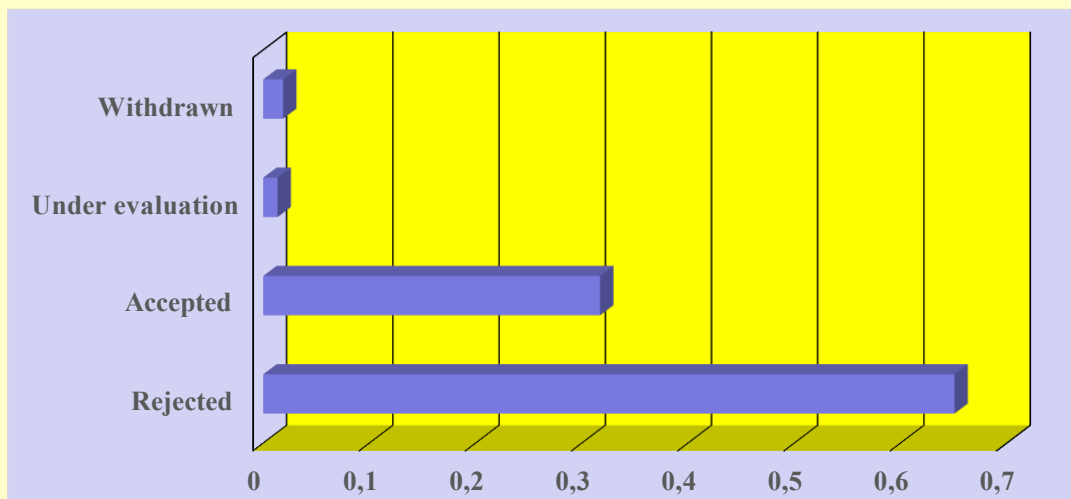
### MS flow

- During the last 5 years (2019-2023), we received 1674 MS (= **about 28 MS/month!**).
- The **distribution of MS over the different sub-disciplines remains constant over the years** in this period.



### MS flow and acceptance rate

- Among the 1674 MS (2019-2023):



This gives an **overall rejection rate of 65.07%** (more or less stable over the years)

## Regional sections of IOBC Global



### APRS

Asia-Pacific Regional Section ([APRS](#))

Contact: Dr. Toni Withers; E-mail:  
toni.withers@scionresearch.com



### ATRS

Afrotropical Regional Section ([ATRS](#))

Contact: Dr. Désiré Gnanvossou; E-mail:  
d.gnanvossou@gmail.com



### EPRS

East Palearctic Regional Section ([EPRS](#))

Contact: Eduard A. Sodomov, Moscow, Russia; E-mail:  
o.krivchenko87@yandex.ru



### NRS

Nearctic Regional Section ([NRS](#))

Contact: Ricky Lara; E-mail: jlara007@ucr.edu





## NTRS

Neotropical Regional Section ([NTRS](#))

Contact: M. Fernanda Cingolani; E-mail: fernandacingolani@cepave.edu.ar



## WPRS

West Palearctic Regional Section ([WPRS](#))

Contact: Dr. Paula Baptista  
[info@iobc-wprs.org](mailto:info@iobc-wprs.org)

## IOBC-Global Working Groups



### Mass Rearing and Quality Assurance ([MRQA](#))

Contact: Rose Buitenhuis; Email: [Rose.Buitenhuis@vinelandresearch.com](mailto:Rose.Buitenhuis@vinelandresearch.com);

Website: <https://www.mrqa.eu>

Next meeting planned for 2025 in the USA, see the website of this Working Group for more information



International Symposium  
Ecology of  
Aphidophaga 15  
Lleida 2022

### Ecology of Aphidophaga

Contact: J.P. Michaud; Email: [jpmi@ksu.edu](mailto:jpmi@ksu.edu)

Next meeting planned at Università di Bologna, in Bologna, Italy, from 8-12 September, 2025. The local organizer is Dr. Laura Depalo ([laura.depalo@unibo.it](mailto:laura.depalo@unibo.it))



### Biological Control and Management of Eupatorieae Weeds

Contact: Michael Day; Email: [tropicalweedbiocontrol@gmail.com](mailto:tropicalweedbiocontrol@gmail.com)



### International Working Group on *Ostrinia* and other maize pests (IWGO)

Contact: Ulli Kuhlmann; Email: [u.kuhlmann@cabi.org](mailto:u.kuhlmann@cabi.org)



### Biological Control and Management of *Parthenium* Weed

Contact: Lorraine Strathie; Email: [strathiel@arc.agric.za](mailto:strathiel@arc.agric.za)

[http://apwss.org.in/APWSS\\_Working\\_Group\\_Newsletter.aspx](http://apwss.org.in/APWSS_Working_Group_Newsletter.aspx)

The Fourth International Workshop of the IOBC Working Group on Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed will be held from 2-5 March 2025 in Bangladesh.



### Biological Control of Diamondback Moth & other Crucifer Insects

Contact: R. Srinivasan; Email: [srini.ramasamy@worldveg.org](mailto:srini.ramasamy@worldveg.org)



### IOBC Global Cactus Working Group

Contact: Iain Paterson; Email: [i.paterson@ru.ac.za](mailto:i.paterson@ru.ac.za); website: [www.ru.ac.za/centreforbiologicalcontrol/globalcactusworking-groupgcwg](http://www.ru.ac.za/centreforbiologicalcontrol/globalcactusworking-groupgcwg)



### Working Group: Classical Weed Biological Control (CWBC)

Contact: Harriet Hinz (CABI, Switzerland), [h.hinz@cabi.org](mailto:h.hinz@cabi.org)  
 Website: [https://www.iobc-global.org/global\\_sg\\_Classical\\_Weed\\_BC.html](https://www.iobc-global.org/global_sg_Classical_Weed_BC.html)

The IOBC Global Working Group on Classical Weed Biological Control (CWBC) has developed an interactive global map to depict biocontrol facilities and institutions with the aim to facilitate collaboration and exchange among biocontrol scientists and practitioners and to increase awareness outside of the biocontrol community. To live up to these expectations, it will be important to capture as many entities involved in classical weed biocontrol activities as possible. We would therefore like to encourage you to please take the survey and enter your institution and its features. The survey can be found on our website: [https://www.iobc-global.org/global\\_wg\\_Classical\\_Weed\\_BC.html](https://www.iobc-global.org/global_wg_Classical_Weed_BC.html)

Please scroll down to the map and click on 'Take the Survey' in the orange field. To facilitate your task, the survey questions are listed below. If your organization has multiple sites or institutes, each one needs to be entered separately please.

We would also like to ask you to distribute this email among your colleagues and network.

Thank you very much in advance for your collaboration!

Survey questions:

- Organization Name
- Organization Acronym
- Organization Website
- Program Name (if applicable)
- Organization / Program Logo
- Organization / Program Location

In which areas within weed biocontrol does your organization work?

Check YES for all that apply:

- Foreign exploration  
Including literature and field surveys and the prioritization of potential biocontrol agents
- Host specificity testing  
Including studies on biology, phenology, rearing
- Impact evaluations  
Including studies on the impact(s) of the target weed and/or studies of the impact of biocontrol agent(s) on the target or trophic web
- Post-release monitoring
- Integrated Weed Management
- Mass rearing and/or distribution of agents
- Molecular analyses  
Including species identification, genetic variability analysis of agents and target plants, phylogeny development etc.
- Modelling  
Including biocontrol agents and/or plants, Climex, environmental niche models, temperature-dependent development etc.
- Chemical ecology  
Including analyses of secondary metabolites and their effect on biocontrol agent host finding behaviour, semio- and phytochemicals etc.
- Population biology and biogeographical comparisons  
Including evaluation of invasion mechanisms, likely agent impact at the population level, population comparisons across different geographical locations, etc.
- Associated contaminant or beneficial organisms  
Including detection of or studies on Wolbachia or other bacteria, nematodes, phytoplasmas etc.

Additional information

- Does your organization or program have a quarantine facility?  
If yes, please use the comment field to add the types of organisms your facility is approved to handle (e.g. insects/mites, pathogens). For respondents representing one program or one institute/site within a larger organization, please only select yes if your specific program/institute/site has access to a quarantine facility.
- Does your organization have an ongoing webinar series related to weed biocontrol?



If yes: Enter any additional information related to webinar series.

- Does your organization host: Graduate students; Temporary Research Assistants (Interns)?



**Study Group: Biological control of insect pests of Solanaceous Crops (IOBC-BiCoSol)**

Contact: Yulin Gao (Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences) [gaoyulin@caas.cn](mailto:gaoyulin@caas.cn)

Please check the IOBC Global website for meeting dates and access. Next meeting of this Study Group is planned for Oct 2024



**IOBC Global Commission on Biological Control and Access and Benefit Sharing**

Contact: Martin Hill; Email: [m.hill@ru.ac.za](mailto:m.hill@ru.ac.za)

## IOBC Global Executive Committee 2020-2024

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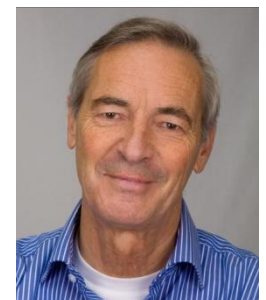
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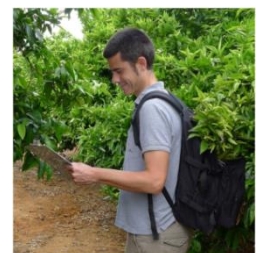
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## Join IOBC

Membership in IOBC is open to all individuals and all organizations, public or private, who desire to promote the objectives of biological control. There are four categories of membership:

- Individual Membership is open to all individuals engaged or interested in biological control.
- Institutional Membership is open to any institution, including government departments, academies of science, universities, institutes and societies participating in biocontrol activities.
- Supporting Membership is open to any person or institution interested in promoting the objectives of the Organization.
- Honorary Membership may be conferred by the Council to anyone who has made outstanding contributions to biological control.

**For more information and application forms:**

**<http://www.iobc-global.org/membership.html>**

