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International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC)

Organisation Internationale de Lutte Biologique (OILB)



*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 117 – October 2025**

Editor: John M. Holland, E-mail: [secretary-general@iobc-global.org](mailto:secretary-general@iobc-global.org)

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### **Dear readers,**

Welcome to the September newsletter. In this period I attended the Development Consortium meeting of the CABI BioProtection Portal. It was fascinating to learn about this wonderful free resource that provides a comprehensive, searchable directory of nationally registered biocontrol and biopesticide crop protection products, along with detailed guidance to help agricultural advisors and growers source and effectively incorporate these sustainable natural products programmes. To use the portal visit <https://bioprotectionportal.com/about/>

Thank you for those that have contributed to the newsletter and please keep sending your contributions, whenever they are ready, and I will incorporate them in the next newsletter.

John Holland Email: [secretary-general@iobc-global.com](mailto:secretary-general@iobc-global.com) (retired entomologist /agroecologist), Dorset, England.

## **Message from the President**

You may recall that in my previous newsletter article, I updated you on the priorities for 2025 for the IOBC Global Executive Committee (pictured below) included: (a) renewal of the publishing agreement for our flagship journal *BioControl*;



across countries for biocontrol solutions; and (c) supporting the vibrancy of our Regional Sections and Working Groups. In this edition of the newsletter, I wanted to share with you some of our actions.

I am pleased to report that we have negotiated and executed a new 5y contract (1-Jan-2026 to 31-Dec-2030) with Springer for *BioControl*. Our expiring contract has a fixed revenue stream; in our new contract we have decided to transition to a hybrid model that will enable the IOBC to both retain a stable fixed annual income from the journal and to have a royalty share based on the

net revenue of the journal. We are hopeful that this will ensure that IOBC Global continues to financially benefit from the success of the journal and invest in the discipline through our Sections and Working Groups. One key way we can continue to help increase the profile and reach of the journal is through thematic Special Issues (SIs). Please work with our Editor-in-Chief (Eric Wajnberg), and his team of Associate Editors and the Editorial Board, to support SIs related to Section/Working Group meetings and other relevant biocontrol conferences in which you are involved. The Exec has decided to include the likelihood of SIs emerging as an important criterion for receipt of IOBC Global funding support for Section and Working Group events.

The Exec and I have also been working to keep biocontrol in the public eye. As part of the raising the profile of our discipline, I recently contributed to the one of the more balanced recent documentaries on biocontrol. For those of you that have access to the US-based Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), please check out Season 2 (Episode 2) of the series Human Footprint titled “The Enemy of My Enemy” (available via the PBS app with a membership to PBS Passport; I am trying to see what open access options may be possible). I trust this adds meaningfully to the amazing outreach many of you are undertaking through your roles.

I have been working with ASEAN Member States to better understand the needs and challenges they have with implementing and scaling biological control. Unsurprisingly, among the significant challenges in the region is the need for harmonisation of regulations to enable safe, effective and sustainable utilisation of different forms of biocontrol. To support the regulation-enabled development and adoption of biocontrol solutions, I will be wearing both my IOBC badge while participating in the inaugural Asia Biological Symposium (Nov 2025) to coincide with Singapore International Agrifood Week. This event builds on the success of the 2025 Salinas Biological Summit in California, USA (<https://www.salinas-summit.com/>), and aligns strongly with the themes of the upcoming 2025 Annual Biocontrol Industry Meeting in Basel, Switzerland (<https://www.abim.ch/>), which I know many of you in Europe will be attending. While I’m promoting upcoming conferences, IOBC-NTRS is hosting the Third Latin American Symposium on Biological Control (20-22 May 2026, Guayaquil, Ecuador). Fernanda Cingolani (President, IOBC-NTRS) is also attending Cuban Symposium of Plant Health to strengthen IOBC’s presence across Central America and the Caribbean.

IOBC Global has begun exploring options for the next International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC4). Building on the tremendous success of ICBC3 in Costa Rica, we are looking forward to the meeting being hosted in 2028 in Asia. Discussions have commenced with the IOBC-APRS to see how best they can be supported to support hosting our flagship international meeting. I will continue to keep you all updated on the progress of these discussions in future newsletters.



Left: Martin Hill (Past President, IOBC Global), Kennedy Zimba (University of Zambia) and Chawezi Nyasulu (CABI Zambia) inspecting the remnants of water hyacinth along the Kafue River (Zambia). Right: Helmuth Zimmermann (stalwart of biocontrol in Africa, inspecting mass-rearing tanks for the water hyacinth weevils).

I will close this article with photos (above) and reflections sent to me by our Past President, Martin Hill. Martin sent me the following words from his recent travels to Zambia to participate in a workshop try and facilitate the process to import and release classical biological control agents. “I got the opportunity to take a trip down to the Kafue River. I first worked here with Ken Harley (CSIRO) in 1995. At that stage there was about 100km of water hyacinth. Between 1995 and 1998 we released the two weevils and couple of other biocontrol agents onto the river. Unfortunately, the money ran out and we never went back. The river is now completely clear. There is less than 5% water hyacinth along the banks, and every plant has weevil damage!”

Martin’s reflections reminded me one of my favourite quotes on classical weed biological control from Barry Jones (former Minister of Science and Technology, Australia) about this collaboration across Australia and Africa: “The best overseas aid I have seen Australia give Africa was a handful of weevils”

Stories and images like these, backed by the science that underpins them, are ever-present reminders of the power and potential for what our discipline can help collaboratively achieve. I invite you all to share your reflections and action shots of your research and its adoption, for inclusion in future editions of the IOBC Global Newsletter.

## BioControl

Please remember to consider Biocontrol for publishing your work. The journal is always looking for high quality original papers, reviews and ideas for special issues. It also welcomes special issues that arise as a result of an IOBC meeting.

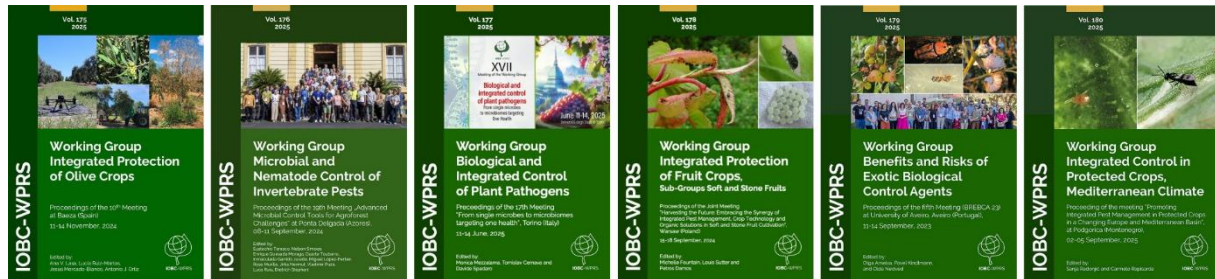
Impact factor 2.7 (2024), 5-year Journal Impact Factor 2.3 (2024), Submission to first decision 4 days, downloads 234,900 <https://link.springer.com/journal/10526>

For further information contact Eric Wajnberg, Editor-in-Chief of BioControl, [eric.wajnberg@inrae.fr](mailto:eric.wajnberg@inrae.fr)

## News from the Regional Sections

### IOBC-WPRS

IOBC-WPRS recently published six Bulletins (Vol. 175-180):



The following Working Groups have published a Bulletin:

- Integrated Protection of Olive Crops
- Microbial and Nematode Control of Invertebrate Pests
- Biological and Integrated Control of Plant Pathogens
- Integrated Protection of Fruit Crops, Soft and Stone Fruits
- Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents
- Integrated Control in Protected Crops, Mediterranean Climate

<https://iobc-wprs.org/publication-category/iobc-wprs-bulletins/2025/>

The next **General Assembly** will be held Mikulov, Czech Republic on 16 - 17 October 2025.

For further details visit: <https://iobc-wprs.org/meeting/iobc-wprs-ga-2025/>

### IOBC-APRS

I am pleased to welcome **Dr Prakya Sreerama Kumar** as the Secretary-General for IOBC-APRS. Sreerama Kumar Prakya serves as a Principal Scientist at the ICAR–National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources in Bengaluru, India.

APRS helped support the Second International Conference on Biological Control: Biocontrol Contributions to One Health (2icbc2025). This was held from 25–28 February 2025 at Radisson Blu Atria in Bengaluru, India. Organised by the Society for Biocontrol Advancement (SBA) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research – National Bureau of Agricultural Insect Resources (ICAR–NBAIR), the conference brought together more than 400 participants, including eminent scientists, international experts, policymakers, industry leaders and early-career researchers. Representatives from countries such as Australia, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Taiwan and the United States, besides India convened to explore the critical role of biological control in advancing sustainable agriculture, integrated pest management and ecosystem health, all within the overarching framework of One Health.



## IOBC-NTRS

The president of IOBC-NTRS (Fernanda Cingolani) and Lisbeth Del Rocío Espinoza Lozano from ESPOL (Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral) of Ecuador, are organizing the **Third Latin American Symposium on Biological Control**. This is a "young" event, conceived as a flagship activity of the IOBC-NTRS, to be held every two years in different countries of the Neotropical region. The next one will take place between May 20th and 22nd of 2026, in the city of Guayaquil (Ecuador).

## Updates from the IOBC-Global Working Groups

### Ecology of Aphidophaga

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

The 16th congress of IOBC working group Ecology of Aphidophaga was held in Bologna, Italy, from September 8-12, 2025, hosted by colleagues Laura Depalo and Antonio Masetti of the University of Bologna. The venue was an ancient chapel in a charming location - the historic heart of Bologna, the city of porticos. A day of touristic activities included a visit to the estuary of the Po River to learn about its ancient fishing heritage, followed by a tour of the town of Commachio, the "little Venice" of Italy. This was followed by a traditional local dinner with a seafood focus. The meeting was attended by 51 participants from 16 different countries. There were seven keynote addresses by prominent scientists researching aphid parasitoids, predators and strategies for aphid management in field and greenhouse crops. There were an additional 16 oral presentations, and eight posters presented. As always, there was ample opportunity for discussion, making new friends, the establishment of new research collaborations, and student engagement with the 'old-timers', Dr. Kris Giles acknowledged the leadership of Dr. J.P. Michaud in organizing the last seven meetings since 2007 and thanked him for his contributions as he stepped down from his role of convenor. Dr. Nickolas Kavallieratos will be taking over the role of convenor and IOBC liaison for subsequent meetings, which are held every three years. Several attendees expressed interest in hosting the next meeting in 2028 and the venue will be selected by the steering committee in the coming months.

## Global Working Group on Classical Weed Biological Control

Contact: Harriet Hinz, Email [h.hinz@cabi.org](mailto:h.hinz@cabi.org)

The Global Working Group on Classical Weed Biological Control was formally established during the XVI International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds (ISBCW), held in Argentina in 2023. The group currently comprises nine co-convenors, representing the key countries and regions actively engaged in weed biological control. We typically convene three online meetings per year, requiring flexibility from participants to accommodate the different time zones.

### The primary objectives of the Working Group are to:

- Facilitate communication and collaboration between ISBCW meetings;
- Develop and maintain an engaging and informative website;
- Support the ongoing updates and maintenance of the World Catalogue of Agents and Their Target Weeds.

Thanks to generous financial support from the Bioeconomy Science Institute - Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research Group (BSI-MWLR), we have successfully developed an interactive global map of weed biological control laboratories. The map currently features 55 entries, including contact information, research focus areas, and available infrastructure. We invite you to explore it here: [https://www.iobc-global.org/global\\_wg\\_Classical\\_Weed\\_BC.html](https://www.iobc-global.org/global_wg_Classical_Weed_BC.html)

We hope this resource will be particularly valuable for newcomers to weed biological control and will help foster greater awareness and collaboration among biological control laboratories worldwide.

Regarding the **Weeds Catalogue**, a major update is currently underway, led by Rachel Winston (MIA Consulting, USA) and Michael Day (formerly with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Australia). Rachel recently secured significant funding from the

U.S. Forest Service, thanks to the dedicated efforts and perseverance of Vanessa Lopez. With additional support from BSI-MWLR, CSIRO, and CABI, Rachel and Mike aim to complete the update by the end of this year.

We are eagerly anticipating the revised version and would like to extend our sincere thanks to Rachel and Mike for their meticulous work, which continues to uphold the scientific integrity of our discipline. Looking ahead, the goal is to develop a more user-friendly interface, and - in the ideal world - to enrich the catalogue with additional information, potentially including agent and target traits.

However, the success of these efforts ultimately depends on:

1) the availability of funds—which, as we are all acutely aware, are becoming increasingly limited,

2) sourcing published articles, and

3) the timely contribution of information from researchers active in weed biocontrol upon request.

If you have any suggestions on how to further support the maintenance, future updates, or planned enhancements of the Weeds Catalogue or the global map, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Working Group or contact Rachel directly at [rachel@getmia.net](mailto:rachel@getmia.net).

Hariet L. Hinz On behalf of the CWBC Working Group

## Biocontrol related events



The International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds (ISBCW) is the most important event for weed biocontrol researchers and practitioners 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.

- Save money with an early bird registration before 31 August 2025.
- Explore the programme, social events and field trips.
- Submit abstracts and workshop ideas by 4 August 2025.

Website: <https://isbcw-rotorua.com>

Note that the organisers are committed to making the conference welcoming and accessible to everyone. If you have specific needs - whether related to childcare, accessibility, support with presentations (e.g. language assistance, help to set up a poster), quiet spaces, dietary requirements, or financial barriers to attendance - please don't hesitate to get in touch. We'll do our best to help or direct you to someone who can. Contact us: [Contact us - Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds](#)

**IOBC ATTENDANCE SCHOLARSHIPS**

IOBC-APRS is offering **NZD\$ 5,000** for one currently enrolled post-graduate student or recent graduate (no more than 2 years post-graduation at the time ISBCW2026 is held) from the Asia/ Pacific region. They must have an oral or poster presentation accepted; must be a resident in Australasia/ Asia/ Pacific region; and must be a member of IOBC-APRS or agree to join.

IOBC-Global is offering: New Zealand applicants up to €500 per person.

Other countries of residence applicants **up to €1,000 per person.**

Link for more information and application form: <https://isbcw-rotorua.com/support/>

**Deadline 30 September 2025**

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: [www.IOBC-WPRS.org/meetings](http://www.IOBC-WPRS.org/meetings)

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED BOOKS**

**1) *Life History Evolution – Traits, Interactions, and Applications.*** We are pleased to announce the release of a new book co-authored by the editor of Biocontrol Eric Wajnberg. by Michal Segoli (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel) and Eric Wajnberg (INRAE, Sophia Antipolis, France) edited with Wiley: Michal Segoli • Eric Wajnberg (2025). Wiley, 472 pp. (preface from Stephen C. Stearns, Yale University CT, USA)

“Life History Evolution: Traits, Interactions, and Applications” presents a cutting-edge synthesis of the mechanisms driving life history strategies that span the breadth of taxa, from bacteria to humans. Integrating classical and contemporary perspectives, this comprehensive volume addresses how organisms evolve traits in response to diverse ecological pressures. The editors bring together leading experts to explore the intersection of evolutionary biology, ecology, and applied research, focusing on the evolving complexity of life history traits and their implications.

In-depth yet accessible chapters cover a broad spectrum of life history traits, from classical traits of lifespan and reproduction to complex interactions like social behaviour, predator-prey dynamics, and human-induced evolutionary processes. The contributing authors explain essential concepts, identify critical knowledge gaps, discuss future research directions, and demonstrate the relevance of life history evolution in addressing climate change, species invasion, pollution, and more.

Providing a well-balanced understanding of life history traits and their implications, the book:

- Provides an overview of the foundational theory, recent developments, and current thinking in the field
- Incorporates recent advances in evolutionary theory, including eco-evolutionary feedback loops and anthropogenic impacts
- Offers diverse perspectives and original research from leading experts in fields such as evolutionary biology, ecology, entomology, zoology, agriculture, and veterinary medicine
- Discusses life history evolution in the context of co-evolved interactions such as predator-prey,



parasite-host, plant-herbivore, and endosymbiont-host relationships

- Features numerous case studies that highlight real-world applications in biological control, wildlife management, climate change adaptation, and others

Revealing how life history traits shape the evolutionary strategies of organisms, “Life History Evolution: Traits, Interactions, and Applications” is an essential resource for undergraduate and graduate students, researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers in ecological science. It is an ideal textbook for courses in evolutionary ecology, evolutionary biology, conservation biology, environmental science, and environmental management.

Further details can be found at: <https://www.wiley.com/en-us/Life+History+Evolution%3A+Traits%2C+Interactions%2C+and+Applications-p-9781394185740>

**2) *Advances in biocontrol of crop insect pests.*** New from the Burleigh Dodds Series in Agricultural Science, this book provides a detailed overview of some of the key developments in this area, including the techniques used to disrupt insect pest behaviour, such as the use of semiochemicals and genetic engineering. The book also reviews recent advances in understanding plant defences against insect pest attacks and how these defences can be improved to limit crop damage and yield.

Through its exploration of the recent advances in the biocontrol sector, the book highlights the potential of novel biocontrol agents to reduce agriculture’s environmental impact, whilst also considering the key formulation issues and regulatory challenges that may arise during the product development stage.

The book is edited by internationally renowned experts: *Professor Travis Glare, Lincoln Agritech Ltd and Lincoln University, New Zealand and Professor Johannes Jehle, Institute of Biological Control – Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (JKI) and Technical University Darmstadt, Germany,*

For more information, including the full table of contents, visit [www.bdspublishing.com](http://www.bdspublishing.com)

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## 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

Please check the IOBC Global website for meeting dates and access.



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

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

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



International Symposium  
Ecology of  
Aphidophaga 15  
Lleida 2022

### Ecology of Aphidophaga

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



### 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



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

Contact: Lorraine Strathie; Email: strathiel@arc.agric.za

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



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

Contact: R. Srinivasan; Email: srini.ramasamy@worldveg.org



**IOBC Global Cactus Working Group**

Contact: Iain Paterson; Email: 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

Website: [https://www.iobc-global.org/global\\_sg\\_Classical\\_Weed\\_BC.html](https://www.iobc-global.org/global_sg_Classical_Weed_BC.html)



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

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



### **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)

## **Join IOBC**

Membership in an IOBC regional group 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>**

