
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 113 – August 2023

Editor: Joop C. van Lenteren, E-mail: secretary-general@iobc-global.org

Contents

Message from the President	2
Candidates for Executive Committee 2024-2028	3
IOBC needs your help	3
Upcoming event Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3), 24-27 June 2024, San José, Costa Rica	3
Upcoming IOBC-Global Working Group activities	5
Summary of IOBC Global Working Group meetings 2023	6
- Weed biological control – May 2023 – Argentina	6
- Early career biological control scientists with an IOBC Global grant	8
- IPM of <i>Ostrinia</i> and other maize pests	12
- Early career biological control scientists with an IOBC Global grant	15
BioControl, Official Journal of IOBC: message from the Editor-in-Chief	17
Call for Biocontrol Training Initiatives	18
New books and papers related to biological control	18
Regional Sections of IOBC Global	20
Working/Study Groups of IOBC Global	21
IOBC Global Executive Committee	24
Join IOBC	25



IOBC Global Executive Committee, Council meeting and General Assembly + ICBC 3 2024

The International Congress of Biological Control 3 (ICBC3) which will be organized by IOBC Global and CABI, will take place from 24 to 28 June 2024 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Message from the President



As the field season in the Northern Hemisphere starts to wind down we in the Southern Hemisphere are starting to dust off the field equipment and plan long days in exotic locations, but what a strange few months it has been with snow in Johannesburg, South Africa for the first time in decades and unprecedented heat across Europe and North America. It has been a busy few months in the world of biological control with Argentina hosting a very successful working group meeting on the biological control of weeds in Puerto Iguazu in May this year. This was a very well organized and attended meeting where the science was excellent and the debate robust. We hope that hosting this meeting in South America will promote the use to biological control for invasive alien weeds there.

In July I attended the 19th Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Rome along with three colleagues from CABI. CABI and IOBC Global hosted a side event on Monday and although the attendance was not great, we got some excellent messages across. The predictable, yet distressing, aspect were the questions around safety of biological control. So, despite all we have done over the years to show that biological control is a safe and effective means of pest mitigation, the safety concerns are still pervasive. In my statement to the meeting I emphasised the long history of biological control globally and stressed that our discipline can only continue if countries conserve their genetic resources and allow access to them. We received support from the meeting and were congratulated on our proactive approach to Access and Benefit Sharing in the context of biological control. Therefore, I want to thank the previous executive committees of IOBC Global for their foresight in establishing the Commission on Biological Control and Access and Benefit Sharing convened by Peter Mason that resulted in the special issue of our journal *BioControl* (vol 68 (3)) which was referred to in the meeting. Once again this emphasises the important of dissemination of knowledge in internationally recognized peer-reviewed outlets and I would like to thank Peter for his excellent leadership on this commission.

I would like to alert members to the Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3) in San José, Costa Rica, from Monday 24th June to Thursday 27th of June 2024 hosted by IOBC Global and CABI. This is the IOBC flagship conference and it is unique in that it brings together all aspects of biological control. The executive committee of the IOBC will be hosting its Council Meeting and General Assembly at this conference and not at the International Congress of Entomology as it has done in the past and the new executive committee for the period 2024-2028 will be announced at this meeting.

There are a number of Working Group meetings scheduled for the next six months, and I wish the conveners of this meetings fortitude with the organization. Please try and support these meetings and engage in healthy and robust debates about our discipline. I would like to thank Joop van Lenteren for pulling together a full newsletter. Further, Joop has been working extremely hard behind the scenes ensuring that our Statutes are up to date and reflect the organization that we are so that we may be listed as a not-for-profit

organization in our host country, Switzerland. This has been a long process and many of us would have given up along the way. But not Joop and he has pushed through the quagmire of legal terminology to make sure that we accrue some tax benefits for the organization. Thank you Joop.

Martin Hill, President IOBC-Global

Candidates for Executive Committee 2024-2028

During the spring of 2024 members of the Regional section can elect a new Executive Committee. Results of the vote will be presented at the General Assembly in June 2024 in Costa Rica. Candidates will be introduced in the December 2023 newsletter. **The current Executive Committee is happy to have received names of excellent candidates for all positions, representing almost all Regional Sections and the different types of biological control.** However, each member of IOBC can propose candidates for the Executive Committee. Candidates should be active IOBC members, provide a short CV (max 250 words which should mention their activities in IOBC so far), a photograph and a motivation (max 250 words) why they would like to be member of the Executive Committee and what ideas they have for the period 2024-2028. The letter with the name, CV and motivation of the candidate should include the name and signature of 10 IOBC members supporting the nomination of the candidate. Please send nominations to the Secretary General of IOBC-Global (secretary-general@iobc-global.org) before 01 December 2023.

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 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 Event IOBC-Global - CABI



IOBC OILB



Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3), 24-27 June 2024, in San José, Costa Rica.

During this congress, IOBC-Global will also organize a General Assembly with a lot of news and present the results of the election of the new Executive Committee

www.IOBC-ICBC.com

email: info@IOBC-ICBC.com

We are preparing for the **Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3) in San José, Costa Rica, from Monday 24th June to Thursday 27th of June 2024**. We are soliciting ideas for scientific session subjects and panel discussion topics and volunteers to organize sessions and panels and to recruit speakers/panellists. ICBC3 will provide the ideal platform for multi and inter-disciplinary biological control research and application. Therefore, this congress is unique in serving as a meeting point for scientists and practitioners from universities, research institutes, governmental, non-governmental and private-sector organizations who are working on a wide breadth of biological control targets including insect pests, plant and animal diseases, weeds and invasive vertebrates whether they use importation, augmentation or conservation as approaches and whether they are interested in basic science related to biological control or in improving its application.

Session subjects and panel discussion topics should be conceptual, and the speakers/panellists should stimulate ideas by presenting new information. The scientific outputs from postgraduate students and postdocs are particularly welcome! Session subjects and panel discussion topics should include the various approaches to biological control, e.g. conservation, augmentation, and importation. The subjects can also encompass various cross-cutting issues: pre-release studies, post-release evaluation, socio-economic studies, the Nagoya Protocol and biological control, the role of gene editing in biological control, community engagement prior release, long-term impact / cost savings of biocontrol, regulatory issues hindering market accessibility, uptake of biological control, the role of digital tools to promote the uptake of knowledge. We will favour session subject and panel discussion topics submissions that are designed to enhance inter-disciplinary collaboration! In addition, we are aiming for gender-balanced scientific sessions and panels.

Each scientific session or panel is 105 min long. We are planning to allow 5 speakers in each scientific session, each with 12 minutes for presenting and 7 minutes for discussion (in case there is high interest in a specific session topic up to 10 speakers can be allowed). Panels should be comprised of 3-5 panellists plus a chair and/or moderator and one keynote speaker who sets the scene for the topic to be discussed (the chair/moderator cannot be the keynote speaker). Panels must allow at least 25 minutes for Q&A from the audience. Today, we hope that you will contribute by suggesting a scientific session subject and/or panel discussion topic and actively participating as a volunteer to organize such a session/panel. **Please submit your scientific session subject / panel discussion topic online to https://www.iobc-icbc.com/index.php?cat=call_sessions**, following the information

requirements, **by 18th of September 2023** so that the proposals for scientific sessions/ panels and organizers can be shared with the members of the Scientific Steering Committee and the best ones selected.

Please forward this message to colleagues potentially interested in the meeting. We are looking forward to arranging a stimulating ICBC3 with your strong support and active participation!

With best wishes,

Ulli Kuhlmann (CABI), Martin Hill & George Heimpel (IOBC-Global)

Third International Congress of Biological Control (ICBC3)

June 24 – 27, 2024

San José, Costa Rica

www.IOBC-ICBC.com

email: info@IOBC-ICBC.com

IOBC-Global Working group meetings fall 2023



1. Benefits and Risks Associated with Exotic Biological Control

Agents: next meeting in Portugal (11-14 September 2023).

This will be a combined meeting of the WPRS working group (organizer) in cooperation with the Global working group. For more information, see <https://brebca2023.web.ua.pt/>

This meeting is targeted at scientists and professionals working with Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents, and addresses the following areas:

- Benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents in forest production systems
- Benefits and risks of biological control of invasive exotic plants
- Interactions between exotic biological control agents and native species
- Benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents of emerging pests and pathogens
- Novel tools to access the benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents.
- Synergies between organizations and networks dealing with exotic Biological control agents



2. Study Group Crop Protection and Pollination (IOBC – CROPROPO)

will likely have its next meeting in conjunction with the XII International Pollination Symposium in Cape Town, South Africa in September/October 2023

Other biocontrol related events

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



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>

Summary of IOBC Global Working Group meetings 2023



1. **Study Group Classical Weed Biological Control:** Argentina in 2023 (7 – 12 May): see <https://isbcw-iguazu.com/>
2. **IOBC Global Cactus working group:** Argentina in 2023 (7 – 12 May): see <https://isbcw-iguazu.com/>

The meeting opened with a bioherbicides workshop. The general conclusion of which was that in spite of their potential, they have rarely been adopted. Bioherbicides need to be revisited, but taking into account two main conditions: projects need to be adequately funded, and target weeds need to be selected carefully.

There were 11 keynote speakers, covering each of the sessions representing Brazil, China, Argentina, USA, Switzerland, South Africa, United Kingdom, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand. The sessions of the symposium covered the entire value chain of weed biological control from target weed selection, molecular characterization of target weeds and potential agents; climate matching to ensure the best chance of success; new developments in host range testing (more emphasis on field host range testing and chemical ecology over quarantine testing); post-release evaluation including the need for more recovery studies; mass-rearing and implementation; cost benefit studies; the role of community in weed biological control; how new technologies can be applied to weed biological control; and how weed biological control is regulated under the Nagoya Protocol. One of the important take

home messages that came through in a number of papers was that weed biocontrol scientists need to learn to communicate far better to a wider audience.

There was considerable discussion on how to promote the use of weed biocontrol technology on Europe and South America. There has been some significant progress in this field and the first classical biological control agent introduction to quarantine in Brazil is imminent. One of the challenges discussed at the meeting was the need to significantly increase capacity of weed biological control, especially in South America.

Sessions and the number of papers

- 1-Target and Agent Selection (12)
- 2-Climate Change (4)
- 3-Taxonomy and Biological Control (6)
- 4-Prospects for weed biological control in South America (6)
- 5-Ecology and Evolution (6)
- 6-Implementation of Access and Benefit Sharing Measures (4)
- 7-Articulating consensus between Science and Alien Weed Management (5)
- 8-Integrating Biological Control, Restoration and Management (10)
- 9-The Future in Biological Control (5)
- 10-Community Engagement and Education (5)
- 11-Improving Biological Control Studies (12)

There were a number of papers dealing with biocontrol of grasses. For many years avoided because of perceived risks, but many results, especially with pathogens and sawflies, are very promising. There were also several papers that showed the value new technologies in the discipline, including remote sensing to quantify the extent of weed infestations and how these change over time after the introduction of a particular agent.



IOBC Awards:

8 Non-Resident Students

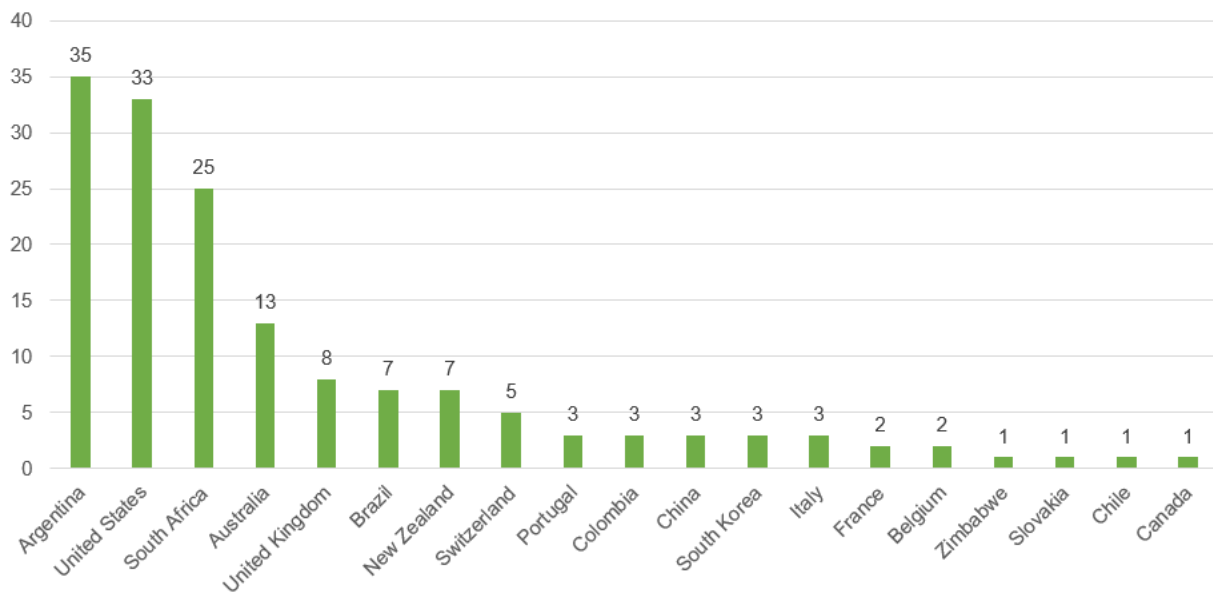
2 Resident Students

Travel Grants:

-Ministry of Science Argentina: Accommodation and travel expenses for 22 Researchers and PhD students.

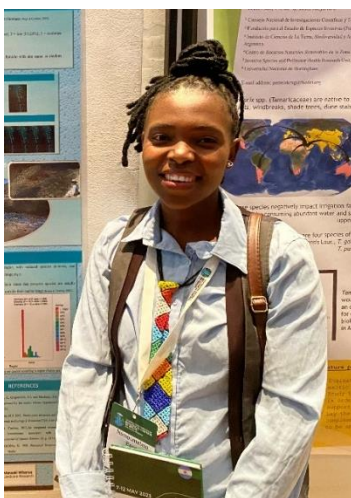
The meeting was very well organized and enjoyable. One of the highlights was the mid-symposium tour to Iguazú National Park. The meeting voted to hold the next ISBCW in New Zealand in March 2026 organized by Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research. The symposium attracted 156 participants from 19 countries, representing 64 institutions. There were 75 first time ISBCW attendees at this meeting, and 70 were female and 86 male.

XVI ISBCW Attendees - ARGENTINA



Reactions from early career biological control scientists who received an IOBC Global grant to be able to participate in

Nompumelelo Catherine Baso - PhD student at Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa



I am writing to share my experience attending the XVI International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds 2023, in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina. As a PhD candidate in the field of biological control, I am deeply grateful for being selected as a recipient of the IOBC-Global Early Career Award, which enabled me to participate in this prestigious event.

The symposium was a remarkable gathering of international experts, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration. The diverse range of speakers from around the world enriched my understanding of the current advancements and challenges in the field of biological control. The sessions were thought-provoking and covered various aspects of weed management, including both theoretical and applied research. I

was mostly interested in the Climate Change Session and how this would change biological control practises in future.

I had fruitful discussions with fellow attendees, exchanged ideas, and received valuable feedback on my ongoing research project on the biological control of Lagarosiphon

major in New Zealand. The insights gained from these interactions will undoubtedly enhance the quality and impact of my work. Furthermore, attending the symposium expanded my professional network, connecting me with like-minded individuals who share my passion for biological control. These connections will foster future collaborations and knowledge sharing, helping me to broaden the scope and reach of my research endeavours.

I am honoured to have been given this opportunity, and I am committed to utilizing the knowledge and connections gained during the symposium to contribute to the advancement of biological control practices in my region. I look forward to continuing my engagement with the IOBC community and contributing to the field of biological control.

Sabrina Bertucci - PhD student, Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral - CONICET-UNNE, Corrientes, Corrientes Capital, Argentina



I am Sabrina Bertucci, and I'm doing my PhD on the topic of biological control of aquatic weeds in urban lagoons. This was the first congress I attended and it has been a totally enlightening and motivating experience for me. It allowed me to meet other students and professionals in the discipline, we were able to exchange knowledge and contacts and to project ideas and future collaborations. All this encouraged me to continue training and updating myself in this area. The symposium was also a practical way to test my English language skills through conversation and presentation of my work.

I am very grateful and happy to have had such an opportunity.

Kim Canavan - Post-doctoral researcher, Centre for Biological Control, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa.



Attending my first ISBCW conference in Iguazú, Argentina has been a career highlight for me. I have been working in the biological control field since my undergraduate degree and over the years I have had great collaborations with many international researchers. However, up until this point I have not had the opportunity to meet these collaborators in person. The conference allowed me to expand these relationships beyond the research to a personal level.

The ISBCW conference provides a platform for researchers to present on all aspects of biocontrol programmes from native range surveys to future technologies. Coming from South Africa it was an opportunity to understand how projects are carried out in other regions and build off of this information.

I presented on a project that involved prioritising biocontrol plant targets in South Africa. After my talk I was approached by a number of delegates that wanted to learn more or had constructive feedback. This reflects the nature of this conference in being a space for both experienced and early career researchers to learn and share how research can be improved, expanded or linked to other projects.

Another area that was encouraging to see was the research highlighting the growing prospects for biocontrol in areas with a lack of precedence, for example in Portugal, Argentina and Brazil. The dedicated researchers in these areas have made great strides in gaining support for this management approach. I hope that the conference being hosted in one of these areas will help continue this momentum and bring further attention to the need to extend this work into these new regions.

A huge thank you to the organising committee for orchestrating such a valuable event and in an incredibly beautiful part of the world. I look forward to the next ISBCW in New Zealand.

Paula Gervanzoni - PhD student, Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral - CONICET-UNNE, Corrientes, Corrientes Capital, Argentina



I am a PhD candidate from the Center of Applied Ecology of the Litoral in Argentina and my research is focused in studying the invasion of the alien plant *Iris pseudacorus* and the feasibility of applying biological control.

For me, attending the XVI International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds was a very enriching and positive experience. The symposium brought together scientists, researchers, and experts from around the world who offered a diverse range of presentations and workshops. It gave me the opportunity to share the results of my research and learn from renowned speakers who provided deep insights into the latest advancements and future directions of biological control of many different aquatic weeds.

Attending this symposium was truly a transformative experience that allowed me not only to incorporate new knowledge on this subject, but also to share and discuss ideas with other researchers, and design future collaborations.

I am very grateful for having had the great opportunity to be part of this event.

Lauréline Humair - PhD student, Technical Research Assistant, CABI Switzerland, Rue des Grillons 1, CH-2800 Delémont, Switzerland



ISBCW23 was a great opportunity for me as a young scientist in the field of biological control of weeds. It allowed me to meet many people, to network and exchange a lot on different projects, receiving some advice and tips. It was great to present a poster and have other thoughts on the subject. I was also able to present some preliminary results of my PhD at the aquatic weed workshop on Sunday afternoon. I am at the very beginning of my PhD thesis, meeting all these people and interacting with them has opened many opportunities for international

collaboration, which I am looking forward. Moreover, working at CABI Switzerland for three years now, it was very valuable to finally put faces on names. I was already collaborating with people I knew only by emails or zoom and it was great to finally meet them in person. Finally, being swiss and based in Switzerland where unfortunately the biological control of weeds is widely unknown, it was very important to see what other countries do and how citizen science and education is essential to have projects developing. It inspired me a lot and having actually the opportunity to teach in schools, I hope to bring some awareness on the topic there.

Phillippa Claire Muskett - PhD student in the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa



I have been involved in the Biological Control of Weeds in South Africa since 2014. This year was the first time that I was granted the opportunity to attend ISBCW and it exceeded my expectations. Attending the conference would not have been possible without the IOBC global early career award and I'm very grateful for the opportunity. The FuEDEI team did an incredible job organizing the event. It was well-organized and carefully thought out which made it easy to meet and make important connections for collaboration in the future. I enjoyed that there was a two-hour period set aside to view posters and interact with the authors. These poster sessions were a great way to encourage interaction. The plenary talks were fascinating and relevant. It was an inspiring week filled with eye opening talks. The connections I made with other weed biological control scientists from different institutions across the globe were definitely the most valuable aspect of the conference. It is great to put faces to names and know who is working on what and how we can help improve each other's projects and control invasive weeds better. Thank you IOBC for allowing me this incredible opportunity.

Antonella Petruzzella - PhD student in the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa



I have been working with biological control of weeds since I moved to South Africa for a postdoc at the Centre for Biological Control (CBC) in 2019. The XVI International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds 2023 in Iguazu, Argentina was my first conference in the topic and I think it could not have been better. Thanks to the International Organisation for Biological Control (IOBC) – Global Early Career Award it was possible for me and many of my early career colleagues to attend this meeting. Those type of initiatives ensures that we all have a more inclusive and diverse group of people attending these so important meetings. It is during these meetings that new collaborations are formed as well as long lasting friendships. It is during these meetings that more experienced scientists get to know you and your work, and you also learn what others are doing in your field. It is during these meetings

that we can improve our communication skills, discuss new ideas and future projects. Scientific meetings are one of the best ways of inspiring a new generation of biological control researchers, managers and practitioners, in my opinion. I met and connected with so many new researchers and established solid collaborations planning on writing one grant to apply for European funding with Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral in Argentina, and a possibility of developing another collaborative project with CABI Switzerland. All talks and poster presentations were fascinating and I gave a talk myself, for which I received amazing feedback. Well done IOBC for supporting many of us, early career researchers. This experience was truly worth it and inspiring.

Megan Reid - PhD Student, Centre for Biological Control, Department of Zoology and Entomology, Rhodes University, Makhanda, South Africa. Currently Post-doctoral researcher at University of Florida, Ft. Lauderdale, U.S.A.



The International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds held in Argentina this year was the first international conference that I attended as an entry biological control researcher. I am overwhelmingly grateful for the opportunity to attend the conference, and to receive the grant from IOBC to allow me to attend. I honestly feel so inspired after seeing all of the research that was presented, and enthralled to meet so many fantastic scientists after reading their papers for so many years. The collaboration between nations, the fantastic organisation, and especially the welcoming, encouraging, and friendly nature of the hosts and attendees makes me feel so very glad that I made the choice to build my career in biological control. On a more personal note, since reaching the end of my PhD I have struggled with low self esteem and what some may call "imposter syndrome", but after attending this conference I feel energised and excited to produce valuable research and to maintain the standard set by the rest of the biocontrol community. The research presented and the discussions shared with other scientists has helped me to think about my current projects in new ways, and has motivated me to work diligently to pursue further research goals. I could certainly write more to express my appreciation of this opportunity, but in short, I honestly feel that it was an incredibly enriching experience, and with all my heart, I thank you!

Sara Salgado - PhD student, IRREC, University of Florida, USA



I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the opportunity to present at the ISBCW 2023. Attending the event for the first time was a truly enjoyable experience. The diverse range of participants from around the world with different backgrounds made it a valuable and enriching meeting. As a researcher focused on biological control of weeds, being part of this meeting was of great importance to me and meeting the minds behind the papers I have read was a privilege. As someone from Ecuador, I was particularly excited to connect with fellow scientists from South America and learn from the great research being conducted there.

I am grateful to the organizers for their excellent work in putting together such a wonderful event. The choice of venue in Argentina and the breathtaking view of the Iguazu falls added to the overall experience. My experience at ISBCW 2023 has been exceptional. I am grateful to have received one of the early career researcher awards and extend my gratitude to all the organizers for their efforts in managing such a multi-country event.

Clarke van Steenderen - PhD student in the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Centre for Biological Control, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

This was my first in-person international conference, and also the first time that I have travelled outside South Africa. It was certainly one of the most fantastic experiences of my life, and I will always cherish these memories. The conference was an excellent networking



opportunity, and it was great to chat to leading biocontrol researchers over some maté tea, and to meet the authors that I have cited in my work.

Making new connections and exchanging ideas has been invaluable to me, and has greatly enriched my future career prospects and collaborative opportunities. I am very appreciative of the oral presentation slot I was allocated, as this allowed me to showcase my work, and opened further discussions with other researchers interested in phylogenetics. The poster sessions were also an excellent way to meet people, and I thoroughly enjoyed learning about the vast array of projects running across the world. The organisers of the conference did an excellent job, and I wish to thank them again for everything they did to make it the success it was. The visit to the Iguazú National Park was nothing short of spectacular. The grandeur of the falls, and the beauty of the forest touched my soul. The young researcher's award made it possible for me to experience all of this, and for that I will always be grateful. I cannot thank you enough!



3. International Working Group on *Ostrinia* and other maize pests (IWGO): the 28th IOBC-Global International Working Group of *Ostrinia* and other maize pests (IWGO) Conference will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th of May 2023.

World's leading experts on maize crop pests gather to share latest research to help safeguard food security

More than 70 of the world's leading experts on maize crop pests have shared the very latest research to help safeguard food security as part of the 28th International Working Group on *Ostrinia* and other maize pests (IWGO) Conference, which was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 2nd to 4th of May 2023. Scientists from Canada, USA, China, and various countries in Europe and Africa, gathered to present their research and recommendations on how to tackle maize insect pests including the fall armyworm and the western corn rootworm. The International Organization of Biological Control (IOBC) – the parent organization of IWGO – co-hosted the conference together with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) in Nairobi, Kenya. They were supported by CABI's regional centre for Africa.

The conference was convened by Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, Executive Director, Global Operations at CABI, and co-convened by Dr Tom Sappington, of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS), and Professor Wang Zhenying of the Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS). In attendance at the opening ceremony, Professor Theophilus M. Mutui, Managing Director, KEPHIS, said, "The conference has identified constraining factors and investments needed for management of the pests of interest and creation of a strong network." "The wealth of knowledge, experiences, expertise and technology I see in the representation in this conference and the line-up of the programme is what we need."



Photo: KCS Convention Service

The programme was organised into seven Scientific Sessions covering a range of topics including the role of lepidopteran pests in contaminating corn ears with mycotoxins; advances in biological control, host-plant resistance, and IPM for management of fall armyworm; genomics for understanding and controlling maize pests; and the challenges and opportunities involved in managing invasive pests of maize. Each of the 53 speakers gave a 10-minute talk, with an additional 10 minutes to answer questions and engage in discussion, which was typically quite lively and productive. In addition, 13 posters were displayed throughout the week with a special time set aside for discussion with the presenters.

Meanwhile, a number of young scientists attended the conference and presented their research topics, and five of them received the IOBC Global Travel Award: (1) Helena Viric Gasparic, University of Zagreb, Croatia; (2) Sri Ita Tarigan, University of Gödöllő, Hungary; (3) Emmanuel Peter, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya; (4) Emily Bick, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA; and (5) Ahmed G. Hussain, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands

At the close of the Conference, it was announced that long-time Co-convenors Prof Zhenying Wang (17 years) and Dr Tom Sappington (12 years) will be retiring soon, and will therefore step away from their roles in IWGO. Dr Feng Zhang of CABI in Beijing, China, and Dr Dominic Reisig of North Carolina State University, USA, have graciously agreed to take on the Co-Convenorships. They have both been active members of IWGO, and are looking forward to serving the IWGO community of scientists in this capacity.



Co-convenors Prof Zhenying Wang and Dr Tom Sappington with Convenor Dr Ulli Kuhlmann

Photo: KCS Convention Service

Reactions from early career biological control scientists who received an IOBC Global grant to be able to participate in the 28th International Working Group on Ostrinia and other maize pests (IWGO)

Helena Viric Gasparic, Ph.D., University of Zagreb Faculty of Agriculture, Croatia

Attending the 28th International Working Group of Ostrinia and other maize pests (IWGO) Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, from May 2nd to May 4th, 2023 was a remarkable experience that exceeded all expectations. The conference brought together a diverse group of experts, researchers, and professionals dedicated to tackling the challenges posed by pests in maize cultivation. The vibrant setting of Nairobi provided a unique backdrop for the event, immersing participants in the rich cultural heritage of Kenya. The conference program was meticulously curated, featuring cutting-edge research presentations and discussions that deepened our understanding of maize pest management strategies. Engaging in meaningful conversations with fellow attendees, sharing insights, and establishing new collaborations further enhanced the experience, leaving an indelible impact on my professional journey. Thank you once again for great organization and support of my travel.

Ahmed G. Hussain, PhD Candidate, Fall Armyworm Project, Laboratory of Virology Wageningen University and Research

Attending the 28th IWGO conference in Nairobi, Kenya, was an amazing experience. The scientific interactions, networking, and quality of research presented were truly captivating. I would like to express my immense appreciation to the IOBC for partially funding my participation through a travel award. It provided me with the remarkable chance to share some of the findings from my PhD project on the biological control of the fall armyworm; the feedback and interaction were fantastic. The conference stood out for its diverse scientific sessions on maize pests, especially the fall armyworm, promoting attentive and curious interactions. Beyond the academic discussions, the social aspect was equally enjoyable, with trips to the National Park and a delightful closing dinner at an exquisite venue. I am eagerly anticipating future conferences and the countless opportunities they will bring.

Emmanuel Peter, PhD Candidate, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology Nairobi, Kenya

The 28th IWGO conference was nothing short of exciting. The diverse range of topics covered in the sessions was truly impressive, showcasing the multidisciplinary nature of the IOBC community. The conference offered a wealth of information and insights. The atmosphere was conducive to forging new connections and fostering meaningful discussions. I was particularly impressed by the emphasis on practical applications and real-world solutions. The conference highlighted numerous case studies and success stories, demonstrating the positive impact of IOBC's work in different regions. It was encouraging to witness the tangible outcomes of research and implementation efforts, leading to more sustainable and resilient agricultural systems. Also, the organizers deserve commendation for their meticulous planning and seamless execution of the conference. Overall, my experience at the conference was incredibly rewarding. The IOBC community's commitment to promoting sustainable practices and biodiversity conservation is commendable, and I am honoured to have been a part of this remarkable event. I sincerely appreciate the IOBC-Global for the travel award to make this possible. I look forward to future conferences

organized by IOBC and witnessing the continued growth and impact of this remarkable community.

Emily Bick, Assistant Professor , University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA

As a new assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, I was excited and delighted to receive the travel award from the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) to attend the International Working Group on Ostrinia and other Maize Pests (IWGO) in Nairobi, Kenya. This award enabled my attendance and presentation at IWGO. The opportunity enabled me to connect with other professionals in the field of maize pest management, biological control and learn about the latest advances and techniques. Through networking and collaboration, I hope to establish myself as an emerging leader in the field of digital entomology and gained insights that can be applied to my work at the university. Additionally, the chance to experience a new culture and explore Nairobi is an incredible personal and professional opportunity that I would have been thrilled to pursue. Overall, receiving this travel award from IOBC to attend the IWGO meeting in Nairobi, Kenya was an excellent opportunity for me to establish myself in the field and broaden my personal and professional horizons.

Sri Ita Tarigan, PhD Candidate, Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences Gödöllő, Hungary

It was a grateful moment participating in the IOBC-IWGO conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference provided me a lot of novel information on biocontrol of fall armyworm which is one of the important pests of maize in the world. The most important topic for me was the session about IPM of fall armyworm as this is very close to my research topic of my PHD thesis. My acknowledgment goes to the IOBC-IWGO committee for being selected for the IOBC Travel Award 2023.



Names from left to right:
Helena Viric Gasparic, Sri Ita Tarigan,
Emmanuel Peter, Emily Bick, Ahmed
G. Hussain

Photo: KCS Convention service,
Switzerland



BioControl, the Official Journal of IOBC

A message from the Editor-in-Chief

The new Impact Factor (IF) for BioControl for 2022 has been released recently. We got 2.5. This is definitely a good score. Our journal remains in the 1st quarter of the category of Entomology.

As far as the key performance indicators are concerned, we are glad to report that our journal has been doing well over the last few years: we had 296 submissions in 2022, and these submissions were peer-reviewed with good turnaround times: on average 21 days from submission to first decision and 180 days from submission to acceptance. The rejection rate was 75%. Full-text downloads have been stable in 2022 (approx. 166,000).

Please also note that we currently have several Special Issues under preparation, which will most likely boost further the IF in the coming years.

We would like to draw your attention to our journal BioControl, which plays a pivotal role in disseminating cutting-edge research in the field of biological control. BioControl, as the official journal of the IOBC, aims to publish high-quality scientific articles encompassing diverse aspects of biological control. The journal serves as a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share their findings, insights, and innovations, thus fostering the growth and advancement of biological control methods worldwide.

As part of our ongoing efforts to promote excellence in research, we invite all members and potential authors to contribute to BioControl by submitting review article proposals and special issue proposals. Review articles provide comprehensive overviews and critical analyses of specific topics within the realm of biological control, whereas special issues focus on emerging areas or themes that are of significant importance to our field. By sharing your expertise and knowledge, you can contribute to the enrichment of the scientific community and help shape the future of biological control.

We would also like to remind you about the opportunity to publish your papers by making use of the Transformative Agreements currently in place with numerous countries worldwide. You can find the complete list of these agreements here: <https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/institutional-agreements>. Transformative Agreements allow participating institutions to combine journal subscription access with Open Access publication costs. These agreements not only help institutions manage the cost and administration of Open Access but also provide authors with a convenient way to fulfill the Open Access requirements of their funders.

If your institution has a Transformative Agreement, you have the option to publish your article Open Access, with the associated fees covered in BioControl (and actually all Springer Nature journals that are included in the agreements). Several studies have shown Open Access articles see higher rates of usage, citations, and social media discussion when measured against comparable subscription articles. See here:

<https://www.springernature.com/gp/open-research/about/whitepapers>, for Springer Nature White papers on how Open Access is developing globally and the benefits of publishing your research Open Access.

We encourage all IOBC members to consider the benefits of Open Access publishing and actively participate in shaping the future of BioControl. By submitting review articles and proposing special issues, you can contribute to advancing our understanding of biological control and its applications, while also establishing your expertise within the field.

Please direct your review article proposals and special issue proposals to the Editor-in-Chief of BioControl, Dr. Eric Wajnberg at eric.wajnberg@inrae.fr. The Editor-in-Chief and the entire editorial team eagerly await your contributions and look forward to working with you to continue pushing the boundaries of biological control research.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to IOBC's journal BioControl.

Best regards,

Eric Wajnberg
Editor-in-Chief of BioControl

Valeriana Ramondo
Publisher, Life Sciences Journals Springer

Call for Biocontrol Training Initiatives

Keen to organise a practical training course in biological control? IOBC-Global may provide financial support

IOBC-Global may financially support participation of young career biological control scientists (< 35 years) who are paying member of one of the Regional Sections of IOBC, so they can take part in a training course. Applications for training courses with participation by young career biocontrol workers should be send to secretary-general@iobc-global.org who will inform you about guidelines and conditions for funding.


An example of a recent training course is presented in Global Newsletter 111 and concerns a biocontrol course given in Ecuador in November 2021. You may find the Ecuadorian course report in English and Spanish at <https://repositorio.iniap.gob.ec/handle/41000/5818>. The reports include testimonials of the trainees. Most of the presentations of the course can be found at the CCRP McKnight's web page <https://www.andescdp.org/grupo-tem%C3%A1tico-manejo-ecol%C3%B3gico-de-plagas-y-enfermedades>.

New books and papers related to biological control

I received one item for this section. Please send me information about new books or important opinion / review papers (secretary-general@iobc-global.org)

Opinion

Trait-based approaches to predicting biological control success: challenges and prospects

Michal Segoli ^{1,*} Paul K. Abram,² Jacintha Ellers,³ Gili Greenbaum,⁴ Ian C.W. Hardy,⁵ George E. Heimpel,⁶ Tamar Keasar,⁷ Paul J. Ode,⁸ Asaf Sadeh,⁹ and Eric Wajnberg¹⁰

Free download at [https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347\(23\)00088-5](https://www.cell.com/trends/ecology-evolution/fulltext/S0169-5347(23)00088-5)



Highlights:

- Across many organisms, there is clear evidence that there are traits associated with successful establishment after being moved to new regions by human activities.
 - Among predatory and parasitoid insects that have been, for decades, intentionally imported to combat insect pests, there is little clear evidence that any particular traits influence their success as biological control agents.
 - We argue this is not due to traits having no influence on success but more likely to the insufficiency of existing data and consequent constraints on analyses used.
 - We provide a roadmap towards improved predictions of how traits, and combinations of traits, affect natural enemy suitability as biological control agents.
- More accurate forecasting of outcomes of biological control introductions would aid importation decisions based on potential risks and benefits of such interventions.

Eric Wajnberg

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. Sandomov, 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

IOBC Global Working Group Contacts and Reports



IOBC • MRQA
Mass Rearing and Quality Assurance

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

Contacts: Maria Luisa Dindo; Email: marialuisa.dindo@unibo.it; Rose Buitenhuis; Email: 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



Biological Control and Management of Eupatoriaceae Weeds

Contact: Michael Day; Email: tropicalweedbiocontrol@gmail.com



Benefits and Risks Associated with Exotic Biological Control Agents

Contact: George Heimpel; Email: heimp001@umn.edu

Next meeting in Portugal (11-14 September 2023). This will be a combined meeting of the WPRS working group (organizer) in cooperation with the Global working group. Keep an eye on the Global website for news and registration details.



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

Contact: Ulli kuhlmann; Email: u.kuhlmann@cabi.org

The 28th IOBC-Global International Working Group of *Ostrinia* and other maize pests (IWGO) Conference will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, from Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th of May 2023



Biological Control and Management of Parthenium Weed

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



Biological Control of Diamondback Moth & other Crucifer Insects

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



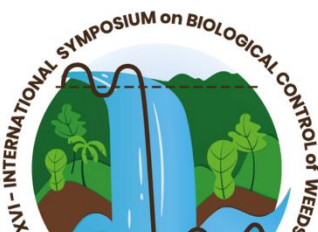
IOBC Global Cactus Working Group

Contact: Iain Paterson; Email: i.paterson@ru.ac.za; website: www.ru.ac.za/centreforbiologicalcontrol/globalcactusworkinggroupgcwg



CroProPol - Using Managed Pollinators to Disseminate Biological Control Agents & Natural Products

Contact: Peter Kevan; Email: pkevan@uoguelph.ca
The next meeting of this group will likely take place in conjunction with the XII International Pollination Symposium in Cape Town, South Africa in September/October 2023. More news later on the IOBC Global website.



Study 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



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

The first – virtual – meeting of this group is planned for 2023. Please check the IOBC Global website for dates and access.



IOBC Global Commission on Biological Control and Access and Benefit Sharing

Contact: Peter Mason; Email: peter.mason@agr.gc.ca

IOBC Global Executive Committee

President Martin Hill
Centre for Biological Control
Rhodes University
Somerset Street, Makhanda 6139, South Africa
Email: m.hill@ru.ac.za



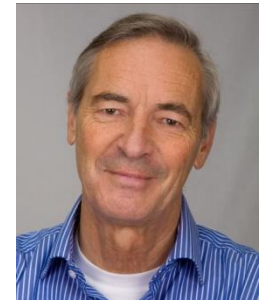
Vice Presidents Yulin Gao
Department of Entomology
Institute of Plant Protection(IPP)
Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sc. (CAAS)
2# West Yuan Ming Yuan Road
Haidian District, Beijing, 100193, P.R, China
Email: gaoyulin@caas.cn



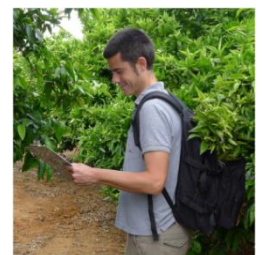
Ronny Groenteman
Landcare Research
Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608, New Zealand
Email: groentemanr@landcareresearch.co.nz



Secretary General Joop C. van Lenteren
Wageningen University
Laboratory of Entomology
PO Box 16, 6700AA Wageningen
The Netherlands
Email: joop.vanlenteren@wur.nl



Treasurer Alejandro Tena
Centro Protección Vegetal y Biotecnología.
Instituto Valenciano de Investigaciones Agrarias (IVIA)
Carretera Moncada-Náquera km 4.5.
46113 Moncada, Valencia
Spain
Email: atena@ivia.es



Past President George Heimpel
Department of Entomology
University of Minnesota
1980 Folwell Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108
USA
Email: heimp001@umn.edu



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>

