Mission Statement

The primary objective of research at EBCL is to develop biological control technologies which can be used to suppress invading weeds and insect pests of Eurasian origin. This is done by searching for natural enemies (insects, mites, and pathogens) in their native habitat, determining their identity, testing their host specificity and potential impact in laboratory and field experiments, and shipping promising organisms to the USA for further testing as biological control agents.

Biological control is an important component of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which aims to develop safe, environmentally-sound pest management technologies that are practical, effective and economical, and which conserve non-renewable resources.

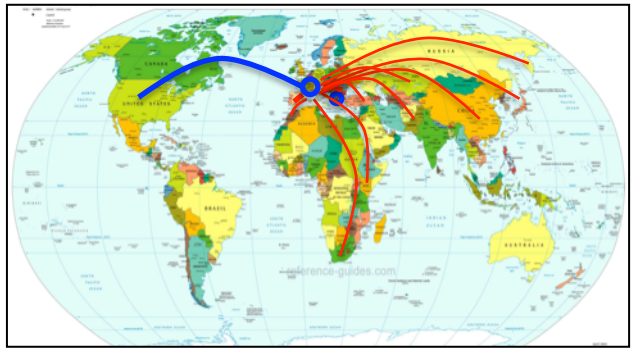
EBCL collaborates with scientists in many countries in Europe, Asia and Africa to explore in regions of origin of the target weeds and pests.

EBCL Affiliation with Scientific Institutions

AGROPOLIS (a consortium of agricultural research institutions - France)
CABI (Center for Agriculture and Bioscience International – Switzerland, UK)
CGBP (Research Center for the Management and Biology of Populations - France)
CILBA (International Complex for Biological Control in Agropolis - France)
CIRAD (Agricultural Research Centre for International Development - France)
CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization - Australia)
ENSAM (National Agricultural University in Montpellier)
INRA (National Institute for Agricultural Research – France)
IRD (Institute for Research and Development – France)

History of EBCL

The European Biological Control Laboratory (EBCL) of the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) was established during 1991 near Montpellier, France. This new laboratory was created from the merger of the former European Parasite Laboratory, established in Paris in 1919, and the Biological Control of Weeds Laboratory, established in Rome in 1958. EBCL has a satellite laboratory in Thessaloniki, Greece to facilitate exploration and field studies, including studies of disease vectors (mosquitoes, sandflies and ticks).



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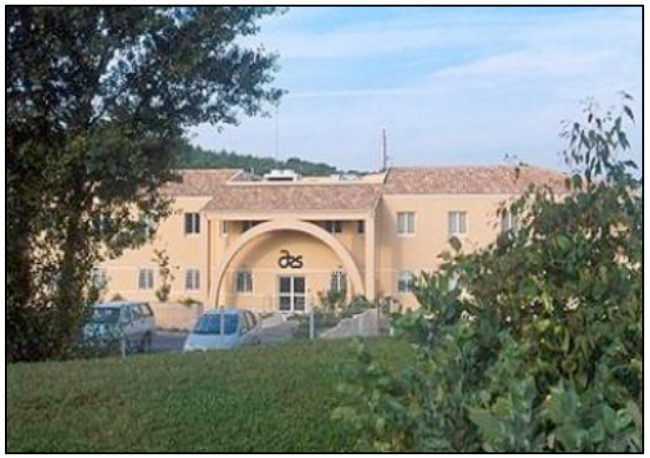

Solutions from Nature
EBCL
European Biological Control Laboratory

United States Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Research Service

USDA ars

Special Research Facilities

Molecular Genetics Laboratory

This laboratory provides state-of-the-art molecular genetics analysis for identifying species, discriminating cryptic populations, and determining their origins, which is critical for all biological control programs.

Microbiology Laboratory

Microbiology research is conducted to understand interspecific interactions between micro-organisms, target pests, and natural enemies.

Chemical Ecology Laboratory

The combination of behavioral experiments and chemical analyses will help us better understand the host specificity of prospective biological control agents.

Quarantine Laboratories

Two quarantines enable us to work with exotic organisms:

- P-2 laboratory and green-house is certified for insects
- P-3 laboratory is certified for plant pathogens

Both quarantines are authorized and regularly inspected by French authorities.

We follow CBD (*Convention on Biological Diversity*), ABS (*Access and Benefit Sharing*, Nagoya Protocol) and CITES (*Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species*) regulations, including obtaining the appropriate permits to collect, export, and import organisms from the countries involved.

Biological Control of Insects

Asian Longhorned Beetle
Anoplophora glabripennis
Exploration for egg parasitoids in East Asia

Bagrada Bug
Bagrada hilaris
Exploration for egg parasitoids in S. Africa & Near East

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
Halyomorpha halys
Exploration for egg parasitoids in East Asia

Cattle Fever Tick
Rhipicephalus annulatus
Exploration for agents in Balkans

Olive Fruit Fly
Bactrocera oleae
Mass rearing & shipment of parasitoids; Ecology of pathogens

Tarnished plant bugs
Lygus spp.
Collection of egg parasitoids in Europe

Integrated Management of Vectors

Mosquitoes: (*Aedes*, *Anopheles*, *Culex* spp.)
West Nile Virus, Chikungunya and Dengue

Sand flies: (*Phlebotomus* spp.)
Leishmaniasis
Taxonomy, biology, evaluation of traps and insecticides

Biological Control of Weeds

African wire grass
Ventenata dubia
Exploration for agents in Europe

French broom
Genista monspessulana
Testing host specificity of agents

Giant reed
Arundo donax
Collection and shipment of agents

Medusahead
Taeniatherum caput-medusae
Exploration for agents in Eurasia

Russian thistle
Salsola tragus
Exploration for agents in Eurasia; testing host specificity

Sahara mustard
Brassica tournefortii
Exploration for agents in Europe, N. Africa, Asia

White top / hoary cress
Lepidium draba
Studying insect-plant-microbial interactions

Yellow starthistle
Centaurea solstitialis
Exploration for agents in Europe, testing host specificity