

Recent Developments in the Biological Control of Weeds
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Several projects of interest to south-eastern Queensland and northern NSW are presently being undertaken at the Alan Fletcher Research Station. Recent work in lantana has concentrated in the release and establishment of the leaf bug *Falconia intermedia* and the leaf rust *Prospopodium tuberculatum* and the host testing of two new agents, *Ophiomyia camarae* and *Aceria lantanae*. Applications for release of the new agents will be submitted in the near future. The mother-of-millions project has seen the completion of host testing of two weevils, *Osphilia tenuipes* and *Alcidodes sedi*, but their host ranges were such that it will be necessary to have them declared under a Biological Control Act before they are released. Two agents for cat's claw creeper, the leaf-sucking bug *Carvalhotingis visenda* and the leaf-tying moth *Hypocosmia pyrochroma*, have recently been shown to be host specific and application is being made for approval to release them. A community based agent release and monitoring program for these agents is being planned. Supporting studies have also shown that this weed may be adversely affected by defoliation. Two agents for the weedy sporobolus grasses, the leaf smut *Ustilago sporoboli-indici* and the stem wasp *Tetramesa* sp., are presently being investigated in South Africa. Madeira vine will be a new project commencing this year. Two promising agents have been found in South America and simulated herbivory experiments have also been carried out.