

# Preparedness in biological control of priority biosecurity threats



## Funding

Non-competitive funding mechanism. Each funder only pays for the participation of their own national researchers. Total funding € 301 000

## Research consortium

Fera (GB), B3 (NZ), JKI (DE), BPI (GR), NVWA (NL), UNI-LJ (SI), CSIRO (AU), UF (BG), EPPO (Int), FEM (IT), Unito (IT), ICDPP (RO), Agroscope (CH), Cabi (CH)

## Contact information

Project coordinators:

Neil Audsley

[neil.audsley@fera.co.uk](mailto:neil.audsley@fera.co.uk)

Gonzalo Avila

[Gonzalo.Avila@plantandfood.co.nz](mailto:Gonzalo.Avila@plantandfood.co.nz)

## Goals

Classical biological control (BCA) is recognised as a key strategy to manage invasive insect pest populations. However, the deliberate introduction of an exotic BCA is subject to regulatory measures which may take years before approval is granted, giving additional time for an invasive pest to establish, build up population density and spread. Pre-emptive biocontrol is a novel approach that has the potential to enhance effective preparedness for a potential invasion of pest species. Natural enemies can be selected, screened and pre-approved in the eventuality of a pest invasion so that release can occur earlier.

The project aims to establish a biological control network to share knowledge and information on priority biosecurity threats and BCAs to increase preparedness for incursions of invasive invertebrate species

## Objectives

The project objectives are:

- to review priority pests and the potential for pre-emptive biological control options
- to establish a network and repository for the exchange of information
- to produce a standard to assess feasibility to conduct pre-emptive risk assessment for the introduction of BCAs