

MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL REPORT

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The *L. franki* colony is gradually recovering from the setback suffered in March when excessively high temperatures were reached in the greenhouse housing the parasitization cage, resulting in loss of 90% of adults. The cage was subsequently moved to a rearing room with better control of environmental conditions. The production of *L. franki* pupae was down 43% from the previous three months. Average weekly production of pupae was only 45, with a maximum of 75. In April, 145 pupae were produced, in May 227 pupae, and in June 209 pupae. The trimestral total was 581 pupae.

Our permit for removing *L. franki* from quarantine expired in mid-May. A new permit was requested in late March and was issued on June 18. Our permit for importing from overseas *L. franki* and other bromeliad-eating weevil parasitoids will expire in July. A new permit was requested in late March, but issuance is still pending although expected soon.

The first *L. franki* release was made at the Oxbow Eco Center on May 17 at 8:30 am; 9 females and 8 males were released. Fly activity is being monitored using sentinel pineapple tops inoculated with *M. callizona* larvae. Tops were placed in the field from May 17 to May 31, from June 23 to July 7, and on July 7 (to be retrieved on June 21). When the tops are retrieved, the weevil larvae are removed and monitored for parasitism. So far, no parasitism has been observed. The next fly release is scheduled for May 21.

A study has begun to determine the developmental time for *M. callizona* from egg to adult at 4 temperatures (15 °C, 20 °C, 25 °C, and 30 °C). Eggs have hatched and larvae are developing at 20 °C, 25 °C, and 30 °C. No eggs have yet hatched at 15 °C. Another 6 to 8 weeks will be needed to finish the study.

Publications:

No publications.

Presentations:

Indian River Bromeliad Society, April 12 (R. Cave)

Entomology Department seminar, University of Nebraska, April 27 (R. Cave)

Sea Rocket Native Plant Society, Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, May 26 (T. Cooper)