

# Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Biological Control Report

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Progress continues to be made on establishing continual production of the parasitic fly that is the candidate biological control agent for the Mexican bromeliad weevil. The stock colony managed by the Escuela Agrícola Panamericana in Honduras remains strong and cared for very well. Financial resources for the rearing in Honduras from November 2005 to April 2006 have come from the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. Shipments received into the UF-IFAS quarantine laboratory in Ft. Piere are as follows:

<b>Date received</b>	<b>No. received</b>	<b>No. adults emerged</b>
November 4	40	38
November 16	40	30
December 2	40	31
December 15	40	25
January 18	41	31
January 27	60	49
February 8	60	53
February 16	60	57
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>314 (83%)</b>

Additional shipments from Honduras are projected to resume on April 11.

Survival of emerged flies in quarantine has been excellent. Fly longevity appears to be as long as 6 weeks. One F<sub>1</sub> female survived about 2 months. We have been able to get successful parasitization by F<sub>1</sub> flies in a smaller cage which might be used for mass rearing flies until a field release permit is approved.