

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Biological Control Report

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Progress continues to be made on establishing continual production of the parasitic fly, *Lixadmontia franki* Wood and Cave, 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 May 1 to October 31, 2006 are provided by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. Shipments of puparia received into the UF-IFAS quarantine laboratory in Ft. Pierce were as follows:

Date received	No. received	No. adults emerged
April 14	40	12
May 10	51	35
May 25	40	still emerging
June 12	30	awaiting emergence
TOTAL	161	

Survival of emerged flies in quarantine has been excellent. Additional shipments from Honduras are projected to be received weekly through the summer and fall.

Dr. Alonso Suazo began working at the Biological Control Research & Containment Laboratory in June. He will conduct a number of biological studies that are needed for better understanding the fly.

Talks on the bromeliad weevil were presented at the Broward Co. Bromeliad Society, Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society, and Marine Resources Council in Rockledge.

On June 28, Graduate student Teresa Cooper successfully defended her M.S. thesis ECOLOGICAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND PATTERNS OF *METAMASIUS CALLIZONA* (CHEVROLAT), AN INVASIVE BROMELIAD-EATING WEEVIL, AND FLORIDA'S NATIVE BROMELIADS.

On June 19, a visit to Collier-Seminole State Park east of Naples revealed no sign of spread of *M. callizona* to that park.