



EPPO Positive List: Status-quo and Future Perspective

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What is the “EPPO positive list“ ?

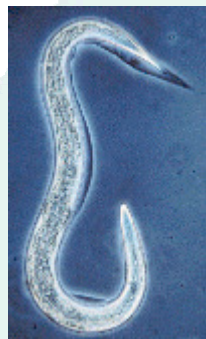
- Standard list of biological control agents widely used within the EPPO region, to facilitate decisions on the import and release of biological control agents by the National Authorities of EPPO countries
- 5 years + 5 EPPO country rule
- Invertebrate biological control agents are listed in two Appendices (I + II).
- Last revision in 2002/2003 by the Panel on Safe Use of Biological control. Revisions are not subject to approval by EPPO Council



current EPPO member countries are shown in green

Appendix I: Commercially used biological control agents

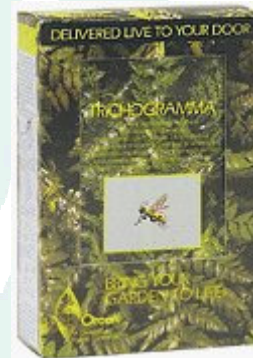
- native and exotic species for inundative / inoculative indoor and outdoor use



Nematodes



Trichogramma



Encarsia formosa

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Appendix II: Successfully introduced classical biological control agents



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Information provided for each biological control agent of the EPPO positive list: Current practice

- Taxonomic classification
- Main target organism
- Original distribution
- Use and distribution within EPPO region
- Successful use in classical biological control or inundative/inoculative biological control



Recommendations of IOBC/WPRS Commission:

(see Bigler et al. 2005, BNI 26(4): 115N-123N)

- Establishment of an expert group for annual revision and update of the EPPO positive list;
- Transparent revision process;
- Public access to the list via internet;
- Inclusion of a biological control agent on the EPPO positive list should not lead to automatic granting of permission for releases of the agent on a wide scale.

Recommendations of IOBC/WPRS Commission:

- Addition of information to the current EPPO list:
 - Eppo countries where the list is approved;
 - Eppo countries where the list is not used as part of the regulatory process;
 - More information on the biological control agent's distribution in the area of origin and within the EPPO region;
 - Evaluation of host range assessment, dispersal, establishment and direct and indirect effects.

Conclusions:

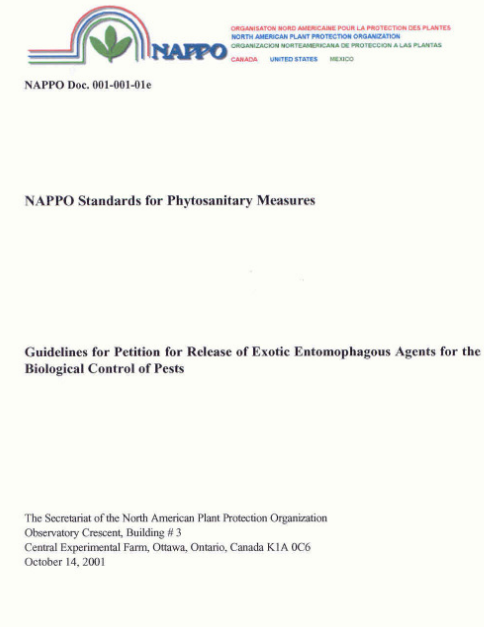
- A revised and more comprehensive positive EPPO list could become a valuable tool for the regulatory process in the future;
- Classification in regulation categories (low, medium, high), depending on the origin and distribution of the biological control agent.
- Concept of eco-regions will not be considered in the decision process;
- Final decision on the regulation only by National Authorities;

Conclusions and Problems:

- A revised and more comprehensive positive EPPO list will become only a valuable tool for the regulatory process of IBCAs until a new revision by experts has been done;
- Most probably new IBCAs on the market after the revision will be not placed on the EPPO List as producers might not like to share knowledge after investments;
- This leads to the situation that each producer will go for approval, most probably in each country of market interest;
- Harmonisation is urgently required to avoid this scenario but how?

Let's look to North America:

- Important progress made to harmonize the data required for release of entomophagous biological control agents;
- Petitions submitted to the regulatory agencies (CFIA, APHIS and Sanidad Vegetal) must conform to the standards set out in the **NAPPO guidelines**;
- The NAPPO guidelines are dynamic and can be changed with the advent of new knowledge.



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Let's look to North America:

- Key will be the expertise of the agency (or agencies) in each country that oversees regulation;
- For entomophagous biological control agents, the most appropriate regulatory models are those already in place for regulating classical biological control agents of weeds;
- In North America these models are based on ecological theory and assessments are done mainly by scientific experts reporting to regulatory agencies;
- In addition, they are linked to IPPC standards and thus are in step with regulation of biological control agents in other jurisdictions.

Let's look to North America:

- Since 2000, of petitions reviewed in Canada, 64% (7/11) of the biological control agents have been approved for release;
- Submissions not approved were for agents for which host specificity could not be demonstrated or for targets for which a native North American species might be more suitable for biological control;
- Arguments in support of released agents were based on scientific studies and were peer reviewed;
- Turnaround time from petition submission until approval or rejection of the agent for release is approximately six months.

Let's look to North America:

- Although no comprehensive legislation such as a 'Biocontrol Act' exists in Canada, Mexico or the United States...
- Exotic invertebrates imported for release as biological control agents are being regulated under existing plant protection and associated acts.