Host Specificity Assessment of European *Peristenus* Species for Classical Biological Control of Native *Lygus* Species in North America: A Safety First Approach for Evaluating Non-Target Risks †

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The *Lygus* bug complex (Het., Miridae) at many sites in North America causes economic damage to a wide variety of agricultural crops and is the focus of numerous research projects. *Lygus* can best be suppressed using parasitoids in unsprayed non-cropping situations as well as in crops where pollination is important for maximizing yields. The European parasitoid *Peristenus digoneutis* Loan (Hym., Braconidae), which attacks several species in the genera *Lygus* and *Adelphocoris* in Europe, has been established in the eastern USA to control the native pest *Lygus lineolatus* (Palisot de Beauvois) in alfalfa. The success of this project has stimulated interest in research into the potential for the establishment of additional European species for biological control of pest *Lygus* bugs in several regions of North America. The research of this ongoing case study concentrates on assessing strategies and methods for host specificity testing of these parasitoids in relation to Europe and North America. The host specificity of these parasitoids is studied qualitatively in the open field in native cultivated and non-cultivated habitats. Predicting the impact of European parasitoids by using existing and new knowledge of the host range and habitats in the area of origin will aid in choosing *Peristenus* species for further release in other regions and will have important implications for the practice of classical biological control.

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Phomopsis cirsii: A Promising Control Agent Against *Cirsium arvense*

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Like in other temperate regions of the world *Cirsium arvense* Scop. is a troublesome weed in Denmark in some important crops, in pastures, and in recreational areas. This this-