

RESEARCH ON BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF BLACKBERRY AND
RAGWORT, DEPARTMENT OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY, VICTORIA

R.L. Amor¹

ABSTRACT

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus* L. agg.)

Two possible biological control agents are being investigated in Europe. The sawfly, *Hartigia albomaculatus* (Hymenoptera:Cepidae), appears to oviposit only in certain species of blackberry and the larval damage causes the canes to die back. The rust, *Phragmidium violaceum* (Uredinales:Pucciniaceae), causes cane die back, premature shedding of leaves and reduced berry formation.

Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea* L.)

Cinnabar moth, *Tyria jacobaeae* (Lepidoptera:Arctiidae), and the flea beetle, *Longitarsus jacobaeae* (Coleoptera:Chrysomelidae), are being reared and released in Victoria. The evaluation is part of an ecological study of ragwort under different management systems.

Other possible agents, including *Lixus punctiventris* (Coleoptera:Curculionidae), are being investigated in Europe.

¹ The Keith Turnbull Research Institute, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Frankston, 3199, Victoria, Australia.