

A Review of the Biological Control of Australian Weeds of South African Origin

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Abstract

Of the 254 plant species of southern African origin that are naturalized in Australia, eight are presently regarded as being of sufficient economic importance to warrant biological control. One of the more important weeds, *Emex australis*, has been examined in South Africa for arthropods that might make suitable biological control agents. Two insect species have been introduced into Australia, and future work will need to be directed towards the fungi. Research is currently underway into the fauna associated with *Chrysanthemoides monilifera*. A number of promising insects have been found and one species has been introduced into Australia for further study in quarantine. Possible biological control agents are known from the insects associated with *Arctotheca calendula*, *Oxalis pes-caprae* and *Tribulus terrestris*. Other weeds of importance in Australia (e.g., *Homeria flaccida* and *H. miniata*, *Romulae rosea*, *Lycium ferocissimum* and *Senecio madagascariensis*) are being considered for biological control projects in the future.