Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds
2-7 February 1992, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand.
Delfosse, E.S. and R.R. Scott (eds). DSIR/CSIRO, Melbourne, p. 203 (1995).

Biological Control of *Sesbania punicea* with *Trichapion lativentre*: Diminished Seed Production Reduces Seeding But Not the Density of A Perennial Weed[1]

J.H. Hoffmann and V.C. Moran

Zoology Department, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch 7700, South Africa

The establishment in South Africa of a floralivorous, apionid weevil, *Trichapion lativentre*, on *Sesbania punicea*, a leguminous weed of South American origin, has reduced seed production of the plants by >98%. Surveys of the age structure and density of plants in infestations of *S. punicea* throughout South Africa have shown that the rate of recruitment of seedlings has drastically declined within a few years in many areas, due to the weevils. However, there has unexpectedly not been a corresponding decline in the density of mature plants in extant infestations of *S. punicea*. In spite of this, *T. lativentre* has curtailed the rate of spread of the weed into uninvaded habitats and has impeded reinvasion into areas cleared of infestations by mechanical means or by another complimentary biological control agent.

[1]Published in *Oecologia* **88**:574-6.