The Establishment of *Cyrtobagous salviniae* in Malaysia for the Biological Control of *Salvinia molest*a

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*Salvinia molest*a, a sterile floating fern, is an important weed in Malaysian rice fields, water networks, disused mining pools and reservoirs. Past management attempts on the weed using chemical and agro-technical methods have failed to alleviate the menace. A need for an alternative and more rational approach, has thus arisen. Following recent successful biological control of *S. molest*a with *Cyrtobagous salviniae* elsewhere, it seemed expedient that this biological control agent be introduced into Malaysia as further attempt to control the weed. Adults of *C. salviniae* were imported from Australia in April 1989 and tests conducted at ASEAN-PLANTI confirmed that *C. salviniae* was host-specific to *S. molest*a. Caged and open field releases of *C. salviniae* were made on *S. molest*a at Macap, Malacca and Tanjung Karang, Selangor, in September 1989. Populations of the weevils increased at the release sites and inflicted severe damage on the weed. It is envisaged that Malaysia will experience successful biological control of *S. molest*a by the weevil in the near future.