

The United States Department of Agriculture, Australian Biological Control Laboratory

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The Australian Biological Control Laboratory (ABCL) is an overseas laboratory of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Research Service (ARS). The laboratory was a University of Florida facility from its establishment in 1985, through June, 1989, at which time it became a USDA, ARS facility. The ABCL is presently located in the Tropical Resource Center, on campus at James Cook University, Townsville, Australia. A satellite facility was opened in 1985 at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation's Long Pocket Laboratories in Brisbane. Research is conducted in cooperation with Australian Scientists, as well as those based in the USA, and other countries. Surveys are performed throughout Australia to discover and study natural enemies of U.S. pests which are native to Australia. The primary target at present is *Melaleuca quinquenervia* (also known as the paperbark tree or tea tree), a wetland weed of Florida. Australian insects, studied and host tested earlier at the ABCL, which attack the submersed aquatic weed, *Hydrilla verticillata*, are also shipped on request to USDA quarantine facilities.
