

Response to Reviewers

We thank the reviewers for the positive comments.

Please find below our response in *italics*.

Sincerely,
Jason

Review for Jason Schmidt S_temp1073

The proposal lays out a fairly comprehensive review of mostly weed biological control in the Southeastern US. Dr. Schmidt also has a nice review of theory and background of incorporating biological control into a broader integrated pest management plan.

R: Thanks for your kind comments.

That said, the proposal is rather sweeping in its scope, laying out potential for collaboration on Brazilian Pepper (and omits one of the TAG petitioners), Chinese Tallow, cogongrass and hydrilla with mentions of other projects (e.g. giant salvinia and earleaf acacia). Mass rearing two separate insects (for Brazilian peppertree and hydrilla) and maintaining a robust research program without clearly laid out collaborations seems unattainable.

R: We would like to clarify that his proposal lays out a multi-state project which relies on the collaboration by several institutions and scientists.

Additionally, Dr. Schmidt mentions foreign explorations for cogongrass specifically, but there are no specific locations or strategies for these collections. Do you plan to repeat Overholt's explorations in Bogor, Indonesia or go elsewhere?

R: The continuation of the exploration of biological agents of cogongrass will depend on the procurement of funds. Dr. James Cuda from University of Florida is taking the lead on the grant preparation.

I feel that this plan would benefit from a clearer focus on which specific arthropod/weed biological control projects Schmidt plans to work on and with whom he plans to conduct this research. Many contributors would be open for interstate and interagency collaborations especially when so many good potential agents are making their way through the TAG petition and USDA-APHIS approval process.

R: Thanks for your comments. This multistate project will be carried out by several institutions.

I made several specific comments on the proposal pdf. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like clarification to my comments.”

R: thanks for your comments.