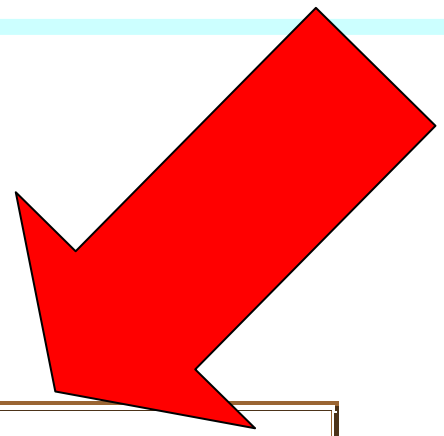




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## Current Research at the European Biological Control Laboratory

Par:

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 The European Biological Control Laboratory (EBCL) is operated by USDA-ARS to conduct research on biological control of invasive weeds and insect pests. The main facility is located on the Baillarguet Campus of Agropolis International, there is a satellite laboratory in Thessaloniki Greece, and research is conducted with cooperators in other countries including Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, Russia, China and South Korea. Research involves foreign exploration to discover prospective biological control agents (arthropods and pathogens), taxonomic identification, molecular genetics, plant pathology, and insect physiology and behavior to evaluate host specificity and potential efficacy of agents. EBCL also participates in related research on population ecology and genetics of invasive species. Although the laboratory focuses on invasive species affecting the United States, it also participates in projects of international interest, such as olive fruit fly, Asian and Citrus longhorned beetles, Asian tiger mosquito, and *Solanum elaeagnifolium* (silverleaf nightshade).

 Weed research targets currently include *Arundo donax* (giant reed), *Centaurea solstitialis* (yellow starthistle), *Genista monspessulana* (French broom), *Lepidium draba* (white top), *Onopordum acanthium* (Scotch thistle), *Salsola tragus* (Russian thistle), *Taeniatherum caput-medusae* (medusahead), *Ventenata dubia* (African wire grass) and *Vincetoxicum* spp. (swallow-worts). Insect targets include *Anoplophora* species (Asian longhorned beetles), *Bactrocera oleae* (olive fruit fly), *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted-wing drosophila), *Euphyllura olivina* (olive psyllid), *Lygus* spp. (tarnished plant bugs) and pentatomid stink bugs (including *Bagrada hilaris* [bagrada bug] and *Halyomorpha halys* [brown marmorated stink bug]). EBCL has recently expanded research to include medical/veterinary targets including mosquitos (*Aedes albopictus* & West Nile virus), sandflies (*Phlebotomus* spp.) and cattle fever ticks (*Rhipicephalus annulatus*).