

INTRODUCTION  
WORKSHOP ON IMPORTANT ARTHROPOD PESTS OF THE  
CARIBBEAN BASIN AMENABLE TO BIOLOGICAL CONTROL:  
HOMOPTERA, COLEOPTERA, LEPIDOPTERA

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This compilation of papers is the result of a workshop held April 8-10, 1991 in Orlando, Florida. The workshop was organized at the request of, and funded by, the Caribbean Basin Administrative Group (CBAG). The CBAG encourages cooperative research among scientists in the Caribbean region and supports research in a wide range of agricultural disciplines and commodities at the University of Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Agriculture in most Caribbean areas is characterized by small multiple crop systems plagued by a diverse complex of pests. Many of these pests are exotic with few natural enemies. When placed in a tropical environment with a year-round growing season, many pests have flourished in all agricultural regions. Pesticide use has been widespread for a number of years now; however, the development of resistance in some major pests and an increased public concern over the hazards posed to human health and the environment has spawned an urgent cry for effective and sound alternative strategies utilizing biological controls.

The Organizing Committee for the workshop consisted of Clayton W. McCoy and Fred D. Bennett, co-chairmen, University of Florida; Carlos Cruz, University of Puerto Rico; Josef Keularts, University of the Virgin Islands; Harold W. Browning and Jorge E. Peña, University of Florida; and Dean F. Davis, CBAG program manager. They recognized a need for action and organized this workshop to provide a scientific forum for the presentation of current research on the biological control of important homopteran, coleopteran, and lepidopteran pests of the Caribbean Region. The committee chose these three pest groups on the basis of their overall importance and amenability to biological control. The purpose of the workshop was as follows: (1) assess opportunity for the application of natural enemies to important agricultural pests within these insect groups, (2) identify scientists working on these key pests and foster opportunity for cooperation among scientists, (3) identify opportunity for immediate application of biological control technologies, and (4) identify knowledge gaps that will require more research.

The members of the Organizing Committee feel the workshop achieved the purpose of identifying research needs and fostered information exchange among scientists active in the Caribbean.

Copies of the symposium may be obtained from:

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