

**BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF WEEDS : A WORLD CATALOGUE OF AGENTS AND THEIR TARGET WEEDS (Third Edition).** Edited by M.H.JULIEN, CSIRO Division of Entomology, Long Pocket Laboratories, Indooroopilly, Brisbane, Queensland 4068, AUSTRALIA. 1992. 186 pp. £ 18.5 (C.A.B. International U.K. /A.C.I.A.R., Australia).

While developing strategies for increasing the agricultural productivity, scientists have to reckon with problems associated with weed management. Research on biological control of weeds during the past has brought out encouraging results and the World Catalogues on Biological Control of Weeds published from time to time has highlighted this fact. Considering the 729 releases so far of exotic invertebrates for the biological control of weeds all over the world as documented by the last two editions as well as this third edition, one should be convinced of the scope of biological control of weeds.

This third edition of the catalogue includes information on 130 new releases of exotic natural enemies during the five years since the second edition. This indicates that the field of biological control of weeds will continue to grow and will provide the answer for the evergrowing environmental problems associated with the use of chemical weedicides. However, biological control of weeds has not been given proper attention when compared to what is given for biocontrol of plant pests. Despite the need and clear benefit, many countries are finding it difficult to provide funds for this important field of research. This is evident from the

relatively small number of publications on biocontrol of weeds in the recent past. It can be figured out from this catalogue that there has been only about 150 publications from the 139 research organisations all over the world during the last five years.

This invaluable document providing information on the exotic biocontrol agents and highlighting the status and degree of control will no doubt kindle the interest of funding agencies favourably towards biocontrol of weeds. As rightly pointed out by J.M.Cullen of CSIRO Division of Entomology, Australia in his foreword, this catalogue will remain the best resource base and starting point for much of the research required. M.H.Julien has done a good job editing this useful catalogue. The value of this wonderful catalogue can be enhanced further by providing separate indices to serial numbers of publications on headings like, successful cases of biocontrol, failures, cases of damage to non-target flora, natural enemies of biocontrol agents etc.

S. JAYARAJ

TAMIL NADU AGRICULTURAL  
UNIVERSITY, COIMBATORE 641 003.