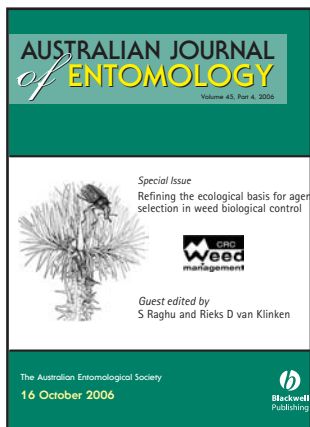


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The thematic compilation of papers in this special issue of the *Australian Journal of Entomology* are the outcome of discussions held at a workshop sponsored by the Cooperative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management (Weeds CRC), and attended by classical weed biological control (CWBC) researchers from throughout Australia. This issue examines CWBC - the intentional introduction of non-indigenous organisms for long-term control of exotic weeds in agricultural and natural ecosystems - and the conceptual and methodological approaches that could make better use of ecological principles in agent selection. Predicting the performance of a biological control agent in a new environment, and the consequences of its performance to its host, represents one of the most challenging tests for the application of ecological theory. This special issue is an attempt to grapple with this ecological challenge to address the question: how do we maximise the likelihood that the biological control agents we release will be the most effective ones?

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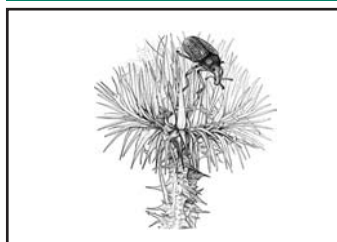
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