



An Entomology Agenda to Improve the Human Condition



Addressing the North American and Pacific Rim Invasive Insect and Arthropod Species Challenge

Invasive species—arthropods in particular—pose a significant and growing global threat to agricultural production, economic development, and ecological stability. They cause billions of dollars in direct damage and lost crops, yet few people seem to understand or care about the problem. Addressing the invasive species challenge needs to become an international priority.

Invasive organisms are predominantly and inadvertently transported by humans. Invaders may be plants, microbes, or animals, and their presence has threatened agriculture and food security, trade agreements, forest health, ecosystem services, environmental quality, public health, and recreation.

Causes for the rise in invasive species include a changing climate and increases in global trade, travel, and transport. A complicating factor is the inadequate level of funding and public support necessary to prevent the spread of invasions or respond to the incursion of potentially harmful invasive species.

Most countries have regulations meant to reduce the impact of invasives and international treaties which seek to prevent the unintended introduction of non-native organisms. However, despite our best efforts, the problem continues. Often new technologies and approaches need to be developed to monitor and manage new invasive species and we need strong networks and expert personnel to do this. Approximately 42% of threatened or endangered species are at risk primarily due to invasive species. Some of the other critical issues include:

- Lack of a coordinated, international response
- Gaps in technology, tools, and techniques for biosecurity and management
- Sustained funding for research and training
- Greater community understanding of the invasive species problem and commitment to seeking solutions

Save the Date for the Invasive Species Summit:

The Entomological Society of America (ESA), the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC), and the Entomological Society of British Columbia (ESBC) will host an invasive arthropod species summit in Vancouver, BC, on 10 November, 2018 - immediately prior to the tri-society meeting of ESA, ESC, and ESBC, which will run from 11-14 November in Vancouver. The summit is invitation only. To request an invitation, please email cstelzig@entsoc.org.

More information at www.EntomologyChallenges.org/Vancouver2018/