

the release of a population of *G. nr. sp. brasiliensis* into the United States. During the year-long review process, rearing methods were developed, as well as uniform sampling methods. Regional insectaries were established and in 2022, releases of *G. nr. sp. brasiliensis* were conducted throughout the United States. Concurrently, adventive populations of *G. nr. sp. brasiliensis* and *L. japonica* were found in British Columbia, Canada. The national effort to release *G. nr. sp. brasiliensis*, therefore, also included the documentation of adventive populations of *G. nr. sp. brasiliensis* and *L. japonica* in the United States. Since their initial discovery in 2022, parasitism levels as high as 65% have been recorded, particularly in the northeastern United States. Here, a summary of the exploration, quarantine, release and recovery of these natural enemies will be presented.

2:00 PM - 2:15 PM (Thu. Aug 29, 2024 1:30 PM - 6:15 PM Room B-2)

[3-8-03] *Classical biological control of Drosophila suzukii in Italy*

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In the last decade, the invasive fruit fly *Drosophila suzukii* (Matsumura) has become a major pest to the soft-skinned fruit production worldwide. Current integrated pest management exploits different control tools, including conservative or augmentative biocontrol, but relies mainly on insecticides. Classical biological control (CBC) is an approach that is expected to reduce long-term management costs of *D. suzukii* and to increase economic and environmental sustainability of farms. In 2021, following foreign explorations, quarantine risk assessment and release approval, a voluntary partnership of researchers from several Italian regions/provinces set up a three-year CBC program using a Japanese G1-lineage population of the larval endoparasitoid *Ganaspis brasiliensis* (Ihering). Three years after the initial release of *G. brasiliensis*, we discuss the results obtained and the constraints encountered throughout the different work stages, from the importation procedure of the biocontrol agent to its mass-rearing, up to the large sampling effort undertaken to characterize the biocontrol activity and the non-target impact of the released *G. brasiliensis*.

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[3-8-04] The search for biological control agents for the management of the invasive strawberry blossom weevil, *Anthonomus rubi*

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