Outlook

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Common ragweed is a very prominent alien species in Europe and in other invaded ranges, mostly because of its impact on human health, but also because of the damage it causes in agriculture. Because of this, even before our project, there was plenty of information available on all aspects of the species including its biology and ecology, impacts, and control options.

As this volume shows, the project HALT Ambrosia has addressed some gaps in this knowledge base and has systemically conducted series of experiments mainly on some aspects of germination biology and on control options. In addition, some review-type chapters have comprehensively collected and discussed already existing information. The results of the project have been presented in numerous forms, as in publications and conference papers. They were specifically discussed in national conferences; proceedings of the German and Austrian conferences have been published (Karrer 2011, Starfinger *et al*. 2014).

The interest in the species is ongoing and the amount of knowledge on it is growing continuously, comprehensive overviews were recently published, e.g., Essl *et al*. 2015, Buters *et al*. 2015.

The overall conclusion from our and from other published research is that common ragweed can be successfully controlled when management measures suitable for the specific situation are chosen. If management is performed it is more a question of political will, legislative circumstances, and available resources than of applicable management measures.

Activities trying to enhance ragweed control in Europe are also ongoing. The COST action SMARTER (Sustainable management of Ambrosia artemisiifolia in Europe) provides a forum for discussing long-term management and monitoring options (ragweed.eu). The International Ragweed Society (http://internationalragweedsociety.org) aims at promoting the knowledge about ragweed and at facilitating collaboration, research, etc. in order to enhance the fight against the plant.

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