



## Conference or Workshop Item

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Contact CEH NORA team at  
[noraceh@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:noraceh@ceh.ac.uk)

# **Alien arthropod predators and parasitoids: an ecological approach**

**Helen E. ROY<sup>1</sup>, Patrick DE CLERCQ<sup>2</sup>, Lori LAWSON-HANDLEY<sup>3</sup>, Remy POLAND<sup>4</sup>, John J. SLOGGETT<sup>5</sup>, Eric WAJNBERG<sup>6</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>*NERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8EF, UK*

<sup>2</sup>*Department of Crop Protection, Ghent University, Coupure Links 653, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium*

<sup>3</sup>*Evolutionary Biology Group, Department of Biological Sciences, The University of Hull, Kingston-Upon-Hull, HU6 7RX, UK*

<sup>4</sup>*Clifton College, 32 College Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 3JH, UK*

<sup>5</sup>*Kronenburgwerf 58, 4812 XR Breda, The Netherlands*

<sup>6</sup>*INRA, 400 Route des Chappes, BP 167, 06903 Sophia Antipolis Cedex, France*

Invasive alien species (IAS) coupled with climate change have been referred to as a “deadly duo”. Until recently research on invasion biology has centred mainly on alien plants and vertebrates, despite the numerical dominance of alien arthropods. Arthropods are the largest group of IAS worldwide and many can play a beneficial role, particularly in controlling insect and mite pests. Indeed, 1590 terrestrial arthropod species have been identified as alien to Europe but only a fraction has been shown to cause either an ecological or economical impact, yet knowledge is severely limited by a paucity of data. The IOBC/WPRS Working Group “Benefits and Risks of Exotic Biological Control Agents” developed the theme of a special issue of *BioControl* to begin to address the limitations in understanding of this important research area. It represents a timely synthesis of current ecological knowledge and research on alien arthropod predators and parasitoids.