Ramularia rubella and *Uromyces rumicis* infecting *Rumex* spp. in the Azores

LUIS SILVA and JOAO TAVARES

Departamento de Biologia, Universidade dos Açores, 9500 Ponta Delgada, Portugal

Rumex spp. (Polygonaceae), mainly *Rumex obtusifolius* L., are considered as weeds in the Azorean pastures, demanding manual and chemical control. However, plants in the genus *Rumex* are heavily infected with *Ramularia rubella* (Bon.) Nannf. or *Uromyces rumicis* (Schum.) Wint.. This is the first record of *R. rubella* for the Azores. *Ramularia rubella* infects all the phenophases of *R. obtusifolius,* and *Rumex conglomeratus* Murr. and is found widely in Sao Miguel Island. Infected leaves of *R. obtusifolius* may present more than one hundred red spots each. *Uromyces rumicis*, already recorded from the Azores on *Rumex pulcher* was found to infect all the phenophases of *R. obtusifolius* on Sao Miguel Island. Groups of uredosori were found, each formed by a central sorus encircled by several sori, and caused chlorosis and death of basal leaves. Both fungi are potential biological control agents of *Rumex* spp. in the Azores.

Impact of *Rhinocyllus conicus* on a non-target, rare, native thistle (*Cirsium fontinale*) in California

CHARLES E. TURNER and JOHN C. HERR

USDA-ARS, Western Regional Research Center, Albany, CA 94710, USA

Despite the fact that damage to non-target native plants by classical biocontrol agents is an important concern in weed biocontrol research, there are virtually no data pertaining to this issue. *Rhinocyllus conicus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), introduced into North America for the control of weedy thistles in the genera *Carduus* and *Silybum,* now attacks many native thistles in the genus *Cirsium* in North America. We report the first data with regard to the impact of *R. conicus* on a non-target native thistle, *Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispoense,* which is a rare, Californian endemic species. Plant and weevil reproductive variables were monitored over the entire course of a growing season on sample plants. The mean number of seeds per infested capitulum was 52.9 compared with 72.9 in uninfested capitula, amounting to a 27.4% destruction of seeds in capitula infested by *R. conicus*. Due in part to a phenological difference in peak oviposition by the weevils in relation to peak capitulum production, *R. conicus* eggs occurred on only 27.7% of thistle capitula. There was no significant difference in weight between seeds from infested and uninfested capitula. These data were discussed further in terms of population level impacts and ongoing field studies.