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**Biological control of *Salvinia molesta* in South Africa revisited**

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**Abstract**

The aquatic weed *Salvinia molesta* D.S. Mitch. (Salviniaceae) was first recorded in South Africa in the early 1900s, and by the 1960s was regarded as one of South Africa's worst aquatic weeds. Following the release of the weevil, *Cyrtobagous salviniae* Calder and Sands (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in 1985, the weed is now considered under successful biological control. However, the post-release evaluation of this biological control programme has been *ad hoc*, therefore, to assess the efficacy of the agent, annual quantitative surveys of South African freshwater systems have been undertaken since 2008. Over the last ten years, of the 57 *S. molesta* sites visited annually in South Africa, the weevil has established at all of them.

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