

Please support the Harry Scott Smith Biocontrol Scholarship Fund at UC Riverside

A special message from invasive species researcher Mark Hoddle

Invasive species are an ever-increasing problem in California agriculture, and obviously citrus is no exception. One tool that can be used to combat invasive species is biological control. The science of biological control – the use of a pest’s natural enemies to suppress its populations to less damaging densities – was pioneered in southern California. This new discipline in entomology was in large part driven by the citrus industry’s need to control invasive species, especially the cottony cushion scale which was devastating citrus in the late 1880s.

The phrase “biological control” was first used by Harry Scott Smith in 1919 at the meeting of Pacific Slope Branch of the American Association of Economic Entomologists at the Mission Inn in downtown Riverside. In 1923, Smith, who had been working on the biological control of gypsy moth with USDA, moved to the University of California Riverside to form the Division of Beneficial Insect Investigations, a unit separate and distinct from the Department of Entomology.

Prof. Smith, affectionately known as “Prof. Harry”, went on to create and chair the Department of Biological Control at UCR, which offered the only graduate degrees in biological control in the world. He is considered the “father” of modern day biological control. Prof. Harry brought recognized entomological training in biocontrol to California for the first time, encouraging work on the applied and practical aspects. Under Prof. Harry’s supervision, the science of biological control was developed in southern California, and, naturally, a major research focus was the biological control of citrus pests.

The *Harry Scott Smith Biological Control Scholarship Fund* in the Entomology Department at UCR was started with a small gift from Prof. Harry, and regular fundraising is necessary to maintain and grow the fund. The sole purpose of the fund is to attract the brightest students to UCR to study biological control. To do this, awards are made annually to provide assistance to students studying biocontrol so they can attend conferences to present the results of their research or to participate in training workshops.

With an ever-increasing number of production challenges facing the citrus industry, biological control is still one of the best tools available for reducing economic damage from invasive pests, and projects on Asian citrus psyllid and Diaprepes root weevil are attempting to do this.

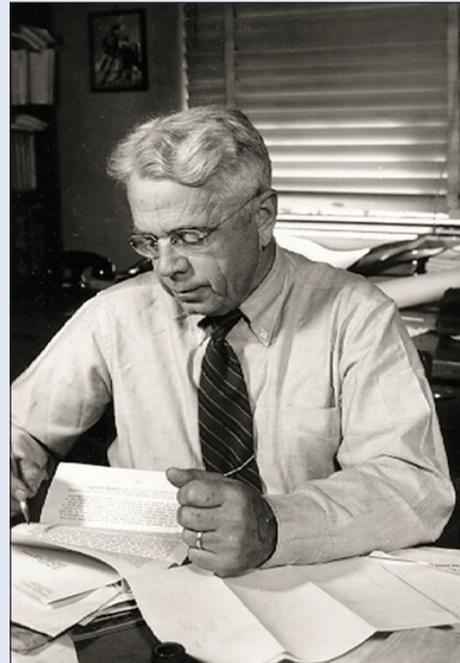
If you are interested in supporting the *Harry Scott Smith Biological Control Scholarship Fund* at UCR, tax deductible donations made payable to the “UC Foundation” can be mailed to Mark Hoddle, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521. More information on the Scholarship, past awardees, and a list of donors can be reviewed at <http://biocontrol.ucr.edu/hoddle/harrysmithfund.html>

Any level of financial support you can provide for the Harry Scott Smith Biological Control Scholarship Fund at UCR will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,



Dr. Mark S. Hoddle
Director, Center for Invasive Species Research
UC Riverside



Professor Harry Scott Smith



Mark Hoddle collecting Asian citrus psyllid natural enemies in the Punjab of Pakistan.