

NZ Landcare Trust  
PO Box 39-141  
CHRISTCHURCH

**31<sup>st</sup> October 2007**

**Re: report on broom programme from 1 July to 31 October 2007:**

We continue to rear the broom leaf beetle to build the population for releases next season in September/October 2008. We have made 10 releases of the beetle this season with 6 releases going to North Canterbury via Laurence Smith of ECAN in Amberley, 1 release to Mark Forward of Weyerhaeuser Forest as part of our Forest Health Research Collaborative funding and 3 releases to regional councils, Marlborough, Wellington, and Waikato, as part of the National Biocontrol Collective funding.

Our rearing, in quarantine, of the leaf tying moth, has gone quite well so far. We now have several hundred larvae on plants in quarantine awaiting permission to release them. To gain permission to release we have had to ask ERMA NZ to review our release application to them so we can expand our collection sites for this moth to an area in France we have collected from before. We have had a positive response to our application to ERMA NZ and are hopeful of making a field release of this agent in March 2008

The gall forming mite rearing has not gone as well as we had hoped however we do have several galls on plants in quarantine and will be removing these from quarantine very soon. The galls we remove from quarantine will be used to build the population over this summer in the hope of making field releases of the mite next summer 2008/09.

A meeting was organised and attended by the group at Amberley on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October.

Over the next few months we will be rearing all three insect species ready for releases next year. I am expecting to once again travel to the UK and Europe next April/May to collect more mite galls and moths to augment our populations already here in New Zealand.

**Expectations for next third achievements:**

We will be rearing the broom beetles, gall mites and leaf moths for later release.  
We hope to be able to make a release of the moth by the end of March 2008.

I thank you for your interest and support in this important project.

Yours sincerely  
A. H. Gourlay

NZ Landcare Trust  
PO Box 39-141  
CHRISTCHURCH

**29<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**Re: report on broom programme from 1 November 2007 to 29 February 2008:**

We are continuing to rear the broom leaf beetle to build the population for releases next season in September/October 2008. We have checked the two initial broom beetle release sites at Leslie Hills and Lincoln. Beetle adults, eggs and larvae were found at these sites in December 2007 and so we can now confirm establishment of the beetle in New Zealand.

A very successful public field day release of the next two agents, the broom leaf-tying moth and the gall mite, was held on February the 12<sup>th</sup> at the Leslie Hills site. Around 20 committee members, local farmers Environment Canterbury staff and journalists attended the release day. Although it was rather wet, a godsend for the local farmers the release of both insects went well. We expect to make more releases of the moths and gall mites this coming summer, 2008. In the absence of someone from the NZ Landcare Trust to act as the administrator for the field day I have contributed 34 hrs of 'in-kind' time to ensure that the project achieves its contracted milestones.

We successfully obtained permission to remove the leaf-tying moth and the gall forming mite from quarantine and have been rearing these insects in our rearing rooms and outdoors in cages. The rearing of the leaf tying moth out of quarantine has gone quite well allowing us to make a couple of field releases. The mass rearing of this moth has posed some problems for us and we are not sure of the numbers of moths we will have available for releases next summer. We are working hard at trying to solve the problems.

The gall forming mite has also posed a few problems but it appears we have overcome some of these as we now have several galls on plants outdoors and therefore hope to make some field releases later this year.

Because of problems with rearing these two insect species I am travelling back to the UK and Europe to collect more mites and moths to add to our small populations here in NZ. I plan to collect these insects overseas in April and May this year.

A meeting was organised and attended by the group at Amberley on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February.

Over the next few months we will be rearing all three insect species ready for releases next year.

**Expectations for next third achievements:**

We will be rearing the broom beetles, gall mites and leaf moths for later release.

I thank you for your interest and support in this important project.

Yours sincerely  
A. H. Gourlay