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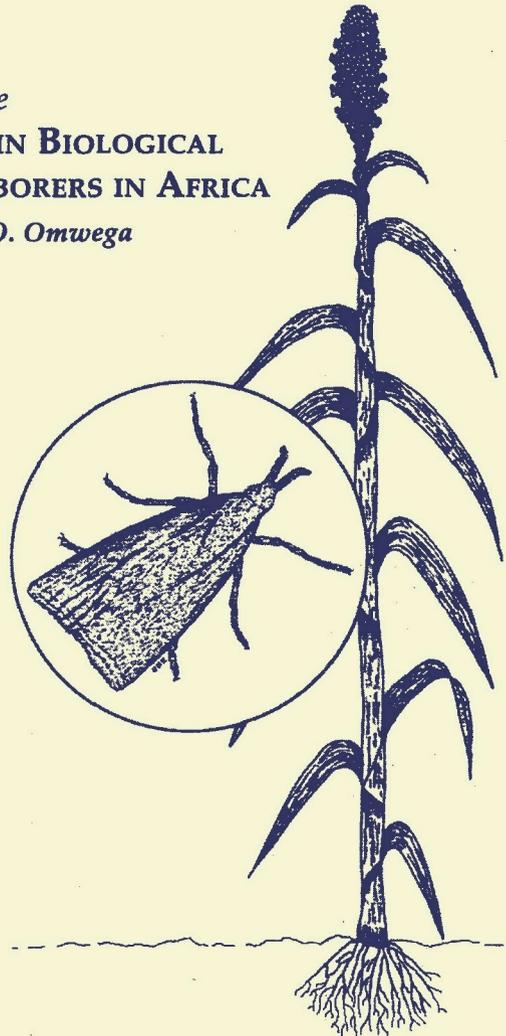
The International Journal of Tropical Insect Science

Editor-in-Chief: *Hans R. Herren*

Special Issue

**STATUS AND ADVANCES IN BIOLOGICAL
CONTROL OF CEREAL STEMBORERS IN AFRICA**

Guest Editor: *Charles O. Omwega*



Founded by *Thomas R. Odhiambo*

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The International Journal of Tropical Insect Science

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and the African Association of Insect Scientists (AAIS)

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P. O. Box 72913, Nairobi, Kenya

SPECIAL ISSUE

**STATUS AND ADVANCES IN BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CEREAL
STEMBORERS IN AFRICA**

The papers in this issue were originally presented at a regional conference on 'Status and Advances in Biological Control of Cereal Stemborers in Africa' held at ICIPE, Nairobi, 15–22 October 2000.

Guest Editor: Charles O. Omwega

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PREFACE

Stemborers are a major constraint to maize and sorghum production in Africa, and the exotic species *Chilo partellus* (Swinhoe) is increasing in importance as a pest of the two staple food crops. A project on the biological control of *C. partellus* was initiated in 1991 at ICIPE with funding from the Netherlands government. Natural enemies were introduced from Pakistan and India and first released in Kenya in 1993. Establishment was confirmed in Kenya in 1995 and subsequently, releases were made in Mozambique in 1996 and Uganda in 1997. More countries joined the collaborative effort from 1997 and by 2000, National Research Institutes and other institutions from nine countries in eastern and southern Africa were participating in the biological control programme.

This special issue of *Insect Science and Its Application* represents the outcome of a regional conference on 'Status and Advances in Biological Control of Cereal Stemborers in Africa' which was held at ICIPE in October 2000. The conference brought together colleagues working on cereal stemborers in Africa, the Netherlands, USA and Australia. The majority of papers in this issue report on the progress and status of biological control efforts in eastern and southern Africa, while others cover topics such as habitat management, cultural control and development of stemborer-resistant maize. A total of 26 papers were presented at the workshop, of which 20 are published in this issue.

We thank all the people who participated and presented their work at this conference and our colleagues who assisted in reviewing and making valuable comments on the manuscripts. We also greatly appreciate the continued support provided for stemborer biological control from the Netherlands government.

We hope the readership of this special issue will find it to be a valuable contribution to the knowledge on biological control and integrated pest management in maize and sorghum agroecosystems.

Charles O. Omwega
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