

Mexican Bromeliad Weevil Report

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Our *Lixadmontia franki* fly colony has declined due to a spider infestation, so no fly releases were made in the spring or summer of 2013.

We will be receiving new fly shipments from Honduras in October, November, and December of this year. These flies will be used to rebuild the colony and, hopefully, we will be able to make fly releases beginning early next spring.

We have slowly been able to continue research on the fly's response to host weevil and bromeliad odors. The new flies will allow us to speed up this research.

We have collected several tissue samples from Central American and Floridian forms of *Tillandsia utriculata*, to be genetically tested to determine if these two forms of *T. utriculata* are the same species. We will continue to collect and test more samples.

We have begun testing the host bromeliad effect on the weevil's development and reproductive behavior, using whole bromeliads. Bromeliads being tested are the Central American and Floridian forms of *Tillandsia utriculata*, as well as *Tillandsia fasciculata*, *Guzmania monostachia*, and pineapple tops.

Publications:

Cooper TM, Frank JH. Description of the larval stages of *Lixadmontia franki* (Diptera: Tachinidae). Florida Entomologist. In press.

Presentations:

Cooper TM, Frank JH, Cave RD. 21 September 2013. The invasive species *Metamasius callizona* (Mexican Bromeliad Weevil): problems and prospects. 2013 Bromeliad Extravaganza, Indian Rocks Beach, Florida. [Poster.]