

REVIEW OF THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF  
SKELETON WEED IN AUSTRALIA

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*Abstract.* Skeleton weed (*Chondrilla juncea* L) was introduced to Australia about 80 years ago probably on three separate occasions; there are three forms (clones) in Australia. Skeleton weed competes vigorously for soil nutrients and water with cereals and pasture. Various methods of control were not successful and it became the target of a biological control program in 1966. Three agents were introduced from Europe in 1971. The decrease in weed density of the common weed form (form A) throughout Australia is illustrated. With this decline, the two other forms (forms B and C) have been gradually expanding their range.

## BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF COMMON HELIOTROPE IN AUSTRALIA

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*Abstract.* Common heliotrope (*Heliotropium europaeum*) is an unfavourable pasture summer-annual which causes severe liver damage characteristic of pyrrolizidine alkaloidosis (toxaemic jaundice) in sheep. It is also a moisture sink in cereal cropping. Because of its prolific seeding, it is difficult and expensive to control by conventional means. A number of natural agents have been selected for introduction into Australia as a biological control measure. One of these, a flea beetle (*Longitarsus albineus*) has already been released. A weevil, moth and a rust fungus are in quarantine and are due for release next summer. A cooperative program has been set up with Western Australia.