

# ANBP 2017 MRQA/ANBP/SMCB/IBMA Joint Workshop Merida, Yucatán, Mexico

Association  
of Natural  
Biocontrol  
Producers

The 14th workshop of the IOBC Global Working Group on Mass Rearing & Quality Assurance (MRQA) was held in Merida, Yucatán, Mexico in November 2017, on the theme “Mass Rearing High Quality Invertebrates for Multiple Purposes”. It was a joint meeting of IOBC-MRQA, the Mexican Society of Biological Control (SMCB), the Association of Natural Biocontrol Producers (ANBP), and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association (IBMA) (Invertebrate Biocontrol Agents Group) hosted by SMCB.

About 60 attendees from 18 countries participated in the event (see photo below). The objective was to explore opportunities for advancing the rearing of high quality entomophagous and phytophagous insects, mites, and other invertebrates for plant and animal pest management, human and animal food, and a variety of other uses.



Seven symposia, including oral presentations, posters and a Panel discussion, dealt with different aspects of arthropod rearing and quality assurance:

1. Mass rearing invertebrates for management of arthropod crop pests
2. Mass rearing for veterinary and medical applications
3. Mass rearing insects for feed and food
4. Development and validation of protocols for invertebrate mass rearing and quality assurance
5. Breeding of beneficial arthropods
6. Networking and instruction on arthropod rearing
7. Legal and ethical issues associated with mass rearing invertebrates

Discussions aimed at expanding knowledge on the different methods and applications involving the mass rearing of invertebrates and their quality control, and promoting worldwide collaboration among scientists and practitioners.

The workshop included a visit to the “Laboratorio de reproducción masiva de *Tamarixia radiata* del Sureste”, where the parasitoid *Tamarixia radiata*, a major antagonist of the Asian citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri*, is mass produced. A tour to the Uxmal archaeological site also was organized.

## Quality control guidelines

During the working group meeting, an initiative was launched to revisit the IOBC quality control guidelines. The current IOBC guidelines, edited by Joop Van Lenteren, are outdated and many products

are missing. There seems to be a demand for protocols that enable independent third party testing, but also simple methods that can be implemented by the end-users. The first steps will be to form a steering committee with IOBC/ANBP/IBMA members to compile lists and review existing guidelines. Then a project with clear milestones should be developed and funding secured, if needed. If you are interested in this initiative, you can contact Angela Hale (ANBP).



For more information, visit [www.anbp.org](http://www.anbp.org), or contact us at: [exdir@anbp.org](mailto:exdir@anbp.org)