

**Title** Potential for widespread application of biological control of stored-product pests—the European perspective

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#### **Abstract**

“Biological control of stored product pests has substantial potential in Europe”. This is essentially the conclusion of the activities of a European working group funded by the COST system, an intergovernmental networking system. Working group 4 of COST action 842 (2000–2005) focussed on biological control of stored-product pests and has considered a number of existing and potential fields for application of biological control. Three situations were identified where biological control would be a valuable component of integrated pest management: (1) Empty room treatment against stored-product mites, beetles and moths; (2) Preventative treatment of bulk commodities against weevils (*Sitophilus* spp.) and storage mites; (3) Preventative application of egg-parasitoids against moths in packaged products. Development of methods for biological control and of mass production of natural enemies for these situations will contribute to ensuring that stored food products are protected from insect and mite pests using techniques that are safe for consumers, workers and the environment.