

A Q U A P H Y T E

CENTER FOR AQUATIC PLANTS

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida



With Support From

The Florida Department of Natural Resources
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station,
Aquatic Plant Control Research Program



Volume 8 Number 1 Spring 1988

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

ISSN 0893-7702

BIOCONTROL MISTAKE?

There have been recent successes with the biological control of aquatic weeds, all involving exotic insects and fish which eat the plants. "Success" here is defined as a degree of aquatic plant control with minimal effects on "non-target" species.

However, back in the 1930s, biological control was a new science and the importation and use of exotic species was not as closely monitored as it is today.

In the 1930s, nutrias (*Myocastor coypus*), semi-aquatic fur-bearing rodents, were imported from South America to Louisiana to help clear the state's waterhyacinth-choked coastal waterways. It was expected that the animals would control plants and also [See NUTRIA on page 2]



Myocastor coypus. Nutria are causing major problems in Louisiana. In tests, they consumed 88% of the transplanted baldcypress seedlings within three days of planting.

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

The Aquatic Plant Information Retrieval System (APIRS) collects all printed information about aquatic plants and makes bibliographic information available, free of charge, to more than two thousand aquatic systems researchers, managers, agencies, private companies, and students in the United States and Canada. APIRS is part of the University of Florida IFAS Center for Aquatic Plants in Gainesville.

The collection includes information about aquatic plant biology and ecology; methods of control of nuisance plants; and utilization of aquatic plants for pollution control, energy production, revegetation, food products and so on. It is the only comprehensive computerized information exchange system devoted to aquatic plants.

The collection is the result of the interest and cooperation of hundreds of researchers and research centers who have contributed more than 25,000 reprints, books and reports. Approximately 200 items are added to the database each month.

In exchange for contributions of articles and books, the system computer produces and delivers to our users bibliographic lists of references from the database. These lists (printouts) are produced according to the users' own specified interests.

The system provides update ("current awareness") information services to more than 700 researchers, as well as "retrospective" services to several [See APIRS on page 6]

To Our Update Friends

To the more than 700 North Americans who receive bibliographic "updates" from APIRS: GREETINGS!

Yes, it has been a while since you last received updates from the aquatic plant database. This is to let you know that update mailouts will resume within 4 months and will be regular thereafter.

This office has been in the time-consuming process of improving our computerized information exchange system.

In the meantime, of course, we continue to offer "retrospective" printouts from the database.

To Our Overseas Friends

To the more than 1,500 of you in 58 other countries who used to receive our information exchange services: GREETINGS!

We are sending you this newsletter to let you know that we are still in business.

We continue to seek international sponsorship so that we can again provide our services to scientists throughout the world.

In the meantime, THANK YOU to those of you who have continued to contribute your research articles and books to the database.

We hope to renew our services to you in the near future.