

COQUI FROG WORKING GROUP

Minutes to meeting on Nov 4, 2002, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Komohana Agric. Complex, Hilo HI

1. ATTENDANCE (see attachment)

- Coordinator: Arnold Hara
- Facilitator: Francis Benevides, Jr.
- Recorder: Ruth Niino-DuPonte

2. INTRODUCTIONS [Group]

- K. Onuma: J. Giffin's DLNR site (heliconia provided refugia) was rid of 2 coqui males (also B. Namihira, F. Benevides).
- F. Benevides: Known perch sites at Puainako Makai were sprayed with pyrenol to flush out frogs in the daytime, but few were seen (also S. Chun). There were eggs and frogs found about four inches underground. Citric acid was also spot-sprayed in pre-flagged areas, in holes in trees, etc. and was effective in flushing out frogs. Eggs were also found in these above ground refugia. Neither pyrenol nor citric acid was successful in flushing out frogs when sprayed on the ground near known refuge sites.
- F. Benevides: Telephoned the vice president (VP) of Sharpshooter (citric acid spray) to determine maximum concentration of product (12%). The VP also indicated that it would be a relatively simple process for his company to provide labeling for use of citric acid on coqui frogs, but it must be cost-effective for them. Some background information would be required: minimum dosage, picture of coqui frog, and description of habitat and treatment method/s.
- G. Santos: Continuing to get calls from frustrated homeowners regarding reaching frogs on high perches. L. Nakahara indicated that drier weather may force frogs to descend lower and be easier to catch.
- L. Larish: Dept of Health is getting a fogger to spray for mosquitoes using undiluted or concentrated pesticide and it may be available for field testing.
- H. Ako: UH would like to locate a site to spray caffeine/pyrenone. Also, the Discovery Channel has contacted him, so he would like some input, resource people to assist in the material to be presented, etc. (volunteers: R. Rosenthal, K. Tavares, possibly C. Martin)

3. PRESENTATION "A Computer Model for Estimating Vocal Coqui Frog Density from SPL Measurements" [F. Benevides]

- Dr. F. Benevides developed a computer-based model for estimating vocal coqui frog density from sound pressure level (SPL) measurements. In addition to pretreatment measurements, the model also provides estimates of vocal coqui frog survival density following treatments and abatement strategies. Use of the model has already shown that coqui vocalization frequency, geometric divergence (i.e. spreading effects), and foliage are the dominant contributors to the attenuation of coqui sound propagation. He will be sending out an updated copy of his Power Point presentation to those on the CFWG Contact List.

4. OLD ACTION ITEMS:

- Invite a state parks representative to discuss what they plan to do to control coquis on their lands [F. Benevides]: Glenn Taguchi will have more to report after Nov. 8 meeting regarding Lava Tree State Park. **Status: OPEN**
- Contact Invasive Species Committee's Christy Martin as potential Public Relations person for all coqui inquiries [G. Santos, K. Tavares]: She was contacted, expressed interest and an invitation will go out to her via Greg and Kim to attend a meeting or send a rep. **Status: CLOSED**

- Invite a political representative to discuss legislation [**B. Kenoi**]: Dwight Takamine and Lorraine Inouye were both contacted and expressed interest in attending, but this meeting was on the eve of elections. They will be contacted again after we can show them specific ways they can help.
Status: CLOSED

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1) Public Education [W. Kenoi, County of HI and B. Mautz, UHH]

- W. Kenoi: Next month, Rosey Rosenthal will be airing ½ hour programs on Public Access TV channels. So far, he has filmed PowerPoint presentations by A. Hara, B. Mautz, and L. Nakahara, and would like other speakers (Power Point presentations are required). He will have a schedule available soon for the CFWG to review. Also, a coqui frog handbook will be ready for publication by the County of Hawai`i shortly (waiting on citric acid data, etc.)

2) Research [A. Hara, UHM and R. Sugihara, USDA]

- C. Jacobsen: Handout: Citric acid phytotoxicity (applied at 25%, which is 9% over the recommended level) on a variety of common plants. Small froglets were killed while contacting citric acid residue after spraying. Also, a handout showing photos of variation in coqui frog morphology.
- W. Pitt: Very little phytotoxicity was observed at a nursery where citric acid was applied at the rate of 16% and washing it off plants after 24 hours. Efficacy field trials have not begun. As little as ½ ml of 16% citric acid will kill a frog. It appears to be a dose response, because <16% concentration will not kill larger frogs.
 - USDA will issue a national pest alert, so awareness should increase. Will this affect quarantine? Since it is being declared a pest in Hawaii, it will affect plants entering Hawaii but not plants being exported from Hawaii since the coqui frog has not been declared a pest in the destination states/countries.
 - When will citric acid be recommended? HI DOA (L. Nakahara, K. Onuma) is working on a label for citric acid to cover liability; W. Pitt will be sending a letter of intent to the EPA, because, although citric acid is on the non-regulated list, it's being used as a toxicant.

3) Nurseries [J. Runnells, Big Island Association of Nurserymen] D. Fell

- J. Runnells: Waiting for research recommendations and also the cost of vapor heat per treatment.

4) Quarantine [M. Enriques, HI DOA, Plant Quarantine] V. Kashiwamura, D. Cravalho

- M. Enriques: On October 17, 2002, Plant Quarantine held a statewide staff meeting on O`ahu, and discussed the inspection of plants moving interisland for coqui frogs. Certified plants have been rejected because of infestation of frogs. When the State Statutes were written on Plant Export, plants certified for export to the U.S. mainland were also approved for movement to other islands without inspection. Currently, nurseries certified under the State's certified program are authorized to export plants to all other states as well as the other islands. This has become a problem since we are trying to prevent the coqui frog from moving between islands yet it is not considered a pest by mainland states. PQ will be working with the Attorney General's office to change the wording in the law that will give us the authority to include interisland pests, such as the coqui frog. After the law is changed, we will need to amend intrastate rules, giving PQ authority to regulate and suspend certifications not only for export pests but interisland pests as well.

5) Legislative [G. Santos, BIISC]

- G. Santos: Preparing a bill to address all invasive species; also a bill to indemnify landowners to allow control measures on their land, but we need legislators to introduce the bills.

6) **Tracking Funding & Resources** [T. Ohashi, USDA]: no report

7) **Public Relations**: (see Old Action Item regarding Christy Martin)

8) **Operations** [S. Veriato, USDA; G. Santos, BIISC, M. Craig MISC]: no report

6. NEW AGENDA ITEMS

- Plans for Lava Tree State Park (LTSP): L. Nakahara
- There will be an interagency meeting on November 8, 2002 (1:00 pm) at the Department of Agriculture (DOA) office on Lanikaula Street. Agencies such as US Forestry, Wildlife, University of Hawaii, State Parks, Department of Agriculture, County of Hawai`i etc. will be represented to ensure multi-agency “buy in” to decide how to go about doing it.
- LTSP was selected because of its high population of coqui frogs, long duration of infestation, and it that it may be a source of coqui frog distribution to other areas.

7. NEXT MEETING

- Monday, December 9, 2002; 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.; UH Manoa CES, Komohana Agricultural Complex, 875 Komohana Street, Conference Room A (upstairs), Hilo, HI