

Summary biography – Matt Thomas, Penn State University

Dr Matt Thomas obtained his BSc at Cardiff University and his PhD at the University of Southampton in the UK. From 1991 to end of 2002 he worked as a research fellow at the Centre for Population Biology at Silwood Park, Imperial College London. He then took up a position as a Senior Lecturer and then Reader in Population Biology and Biological Control at Imperial College. At the end of 2005 he joined CSIRO Entomology as a Senior Principal Research Scientist and leader of the 'Pests, Vectors and Emerging Diseases' research stream. In 2009 he moved to the US as Professor of Entomology at Penn State University. He has interests in various aspects of the ecology and evolution of 'enemy-victim' interactions including: biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in sustainable agriculture, environmental risks of biocontrol, enemy release and emerging pests (includes weeds) and diseases, ecology and evolution of host-pathogen interactions, use of biopesticides for control of pests and vector-borne diseases. He has been principal investigator on several large collaborative research projects with practical experience in a range of systems in both temperate and tropical settings. For further details of current research activities see: <http://www.thethomaslab.net/>.