

**STATUTES OF THE NEOTROPICAL REGIONAL SECTION (NTRS)
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL
OF NOXIOUS ANIMALS AND PLANTS (IOBC)**

PREAMBLE

These Statutes apply only to the "Neotropical Regional Section (NTRS) of the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants (IOBC)". The Statutes of the global organization are binding on the Regional Section.

ARTICLE I Name

The name of the Regional Section shall be "Neotropical Regional Section of the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants," hereinafter referred to as the "Regional Section". The Regional Section includes all the Western Hemisphere countries and colonies in the Americas interested in participating, except those already included in the "Nearctic Regional Section of the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants."

ARTICLE II Affiliation

The Regional Section forms a part of the global organization of the International Organization (IOBC) and is through that body affiliated to the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS). The Statutes and By-Laws of the Regional Section and amendments thereto are subject to approval by the Council of the global organization.

ARTICLE III Functions and Objectives

The Regional Section through its activities shall:

1. Promote the development of research on, and implementation of biological and integrated control within the Regional Section by Universities, Institutes, Foundations, Private Individuals and others;
2. Facilitate the training of specialists in biological, integrated and genetic control in entomology, acarology, nematology, plant pathology, weed science and other disciplines;
3. Facilitate the education and interest of the general public in biological, integrated and genetic control;
4. Arrange conferences, meetings and symposia and take any similar action to facilitate communication within the Regional Section;

5. Promote an active interchange of information and researchers with all the other Regional Sections of the IOBC;

6. Support and participate in the global organization of the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants;

7. Publish a newsletter to provide information and to further communication among members of the Regional Section.

ARTICLE IV General Structure

The Regional Section shall be composed of the members and the Governing Board.

ARTICLE V Membership

1. Membership in the Regional Section shall be open to all individuals and all organizations, public or private, that desire to promote the objectives of the Regional Section and the global organization.

2. As an integral part of the global organization, the Regional Section has the same four categories of membership as the global body, namely Individual, Institutional, Supporting and Honorary.

a. Individual membership is open to any individual engaged or interested in biological and integrated control.

b. Institutional membership is open to any institution, including government departments, academies of sciences, universities, institutes societies, participating in biological and integrated control.

c. Supporting membership is open to any person or institution interested in promoting the objectives of the organization.

d. Honorary membership may be conferred by the global organization upon anyone who has made outstanding contributions to biological and integrated control, upon the recommendations of the Regional Section.

3. The Regional Section shall also include the membership category of Student member, which shall be open to any bonafide student under the age of 26 interested in biological and integrated control.

4. Application for membership shall be made to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Regional Section.

ARTICLE VI Governing Board

1. The Governing Board shall consist of the officers, all of whom shall be regular members of the Neotropical Regional Section (NTRS)

a. The officers shall include the President, the President-Elect, the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-President, the third Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Corresponding-Secretary and the Past-President.

b. Candidates shall be nominated by the Governing Board or by any five voting members. Elections shall be determined by postal ballot submitted to all regular members of NTRS.

c. Officers shall be elected for a term of four years. They are not eligible for a second consecutive term in the same office except the Secretary-Treasurer. No officer shall serve a third term.

d. Should a position become vacant between elections, the Governing Board may appoint a member to serve the unexpired term of that position. Such member may be later elected to the same office at the regular election. In case of the inability of the President to serve, the First Vice-President shall complete his term of office.

2. Candidates shall represent the different linguistic, geographical, and discipline areas of the Regional Section, as far as possible.

3. The Governing Board shall be responsible for carrying out the functions, and the objectives of the Regional Section and the global organization, for preparation of the budget, and determination of the levels of Regional membership fees.

4. The Governing Board shall formulate and amend By-laws, and adopt its own rules of procedure in accordance with article II.

ARTICLE VII Duties of Governing Board Members

1. President-Elect. During his term of office, the President-Elect shall become familiar with the rules of procedure of the Governing Board in preparation for his term of office as President which follows.

2. President. The President shall provide leadership for the Regional Section, insure that the goals and objectives of both the Regional Section and the global organization are carried out, and preside at Regional Section meetings. The President shall also serve as chair of Governing Board meetings.

3. Past-President. The Past-President shall serve as an advisor and consultant to the President and Governing Board, in order to provide continuity in the development and implementation of the long-term policies of the Regional Section.

4. First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall serve as the Program chair for the Regional Section. In case of the inability of the President to serve, the First Vice-president shall become President for the remainder of the current term of office.

5. Second and third Vice-Presidents. The Second and Third Vice-Presidents shall serve as assistants to the Program Chair for the Regional Section and in other capacities as may be requested by the President and approved by the Governing Board.

6. Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have custody of all accounts, securities, property, and records of the Regional Section. The Secretary-Treasurer shall prepare an annual budget, maintain membership and fee records, and pay the annual global membership fee and member subscriptions to the journal Entomophaga.

7. Corresponding-Secretary. The Corresponding-Secretary shall be responsible for publication of the Regional Section newsletter and shall act as a liaison for regional information accumulation for inclusion in the global newsletter.

ARTICLE VIII Quorum

1. At meetings of the Governing Board, four members shall constitute a quorum, provided the President is present.

2. There shall be no quorum either for meetings or for postal ballots.

ARTICLE IX Meetings

The Regional Section shall convene a meeting of the membership once every two to four years. The Governing board shall decide the site and time of the the meeting that should preferably coincide with the annual conferences of National Societies to facilitate attendance of members.

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ARTICLE X Budget

1. All funds derived from global membership fees shall be paid to the Regional Section for transmittal in toto to the global organization. Funds available to the Regional Section shall not come from these global membership fees, but from annual Regional Section fees or contributions from members and such other funds as may be available from non member sources.

2. The level of global membership fees shall be decided by the Executive Committee of the global organization. The level of annual Regional Section fees shall be determined by the Governing Board of the Regional Section.

ARTICLE XI Amendments to Statutes

1. Proposed amendments to the Regional Section Statutes may be initiated by the Governing Board or by any 10 members.

2. Amendments to these Regional Section Statutes shall be determined by a simple majority of votes cast in a postal ballot to all members.