

# MLA project BERM 0089



## OUTCOMES OF MLA PROJECT ON GRT CONTROL AND FUTURE WORK

A joint initiative of:



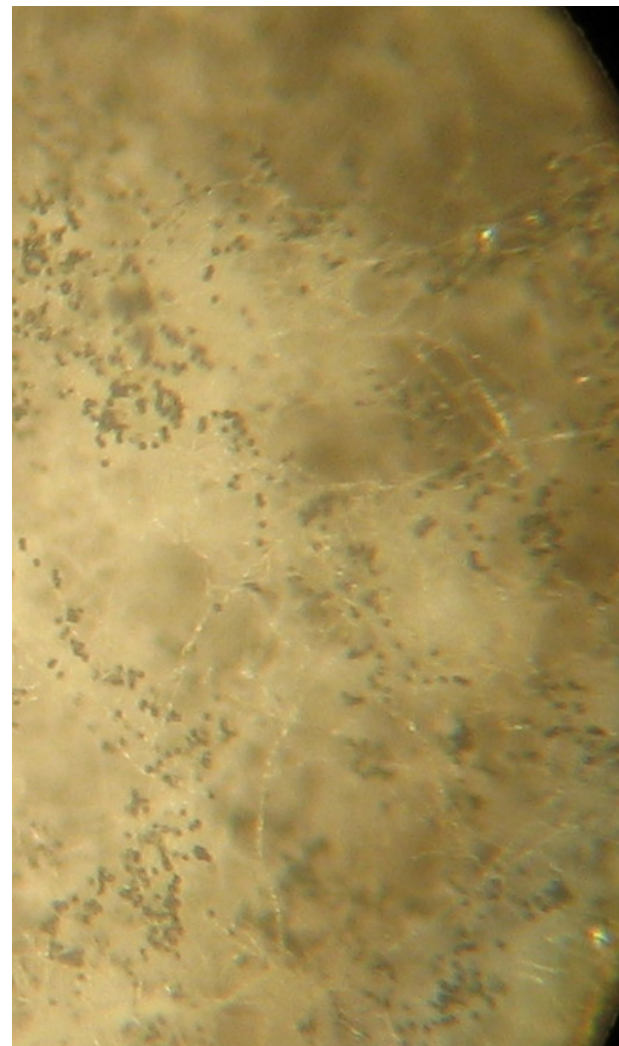
1. Outcomes of the MLA project BERM-0089 Biological control of Giant Rat's Tail (*Sporobolous pyramidalis*) with the fungus *N. Oryzae*.
2. Identify the key recommendations of the report
3. What's happening now in terms of research development and extension of holistic GRT management

# MLA Project BERM0089

Project Duration September 2012 –  
December 2015

Project evaluated the relationship  
between GRT and *N.Oryzae* in 3  
separate field trials and a large scale  
pot trial based at the Ecosciences  
Precinct, Brisbane.

Also incorporated 2 forms of fusaria  
which had previously been isolated  
from diseased GPG in Northern NSW.



# MLA Project BERM0089

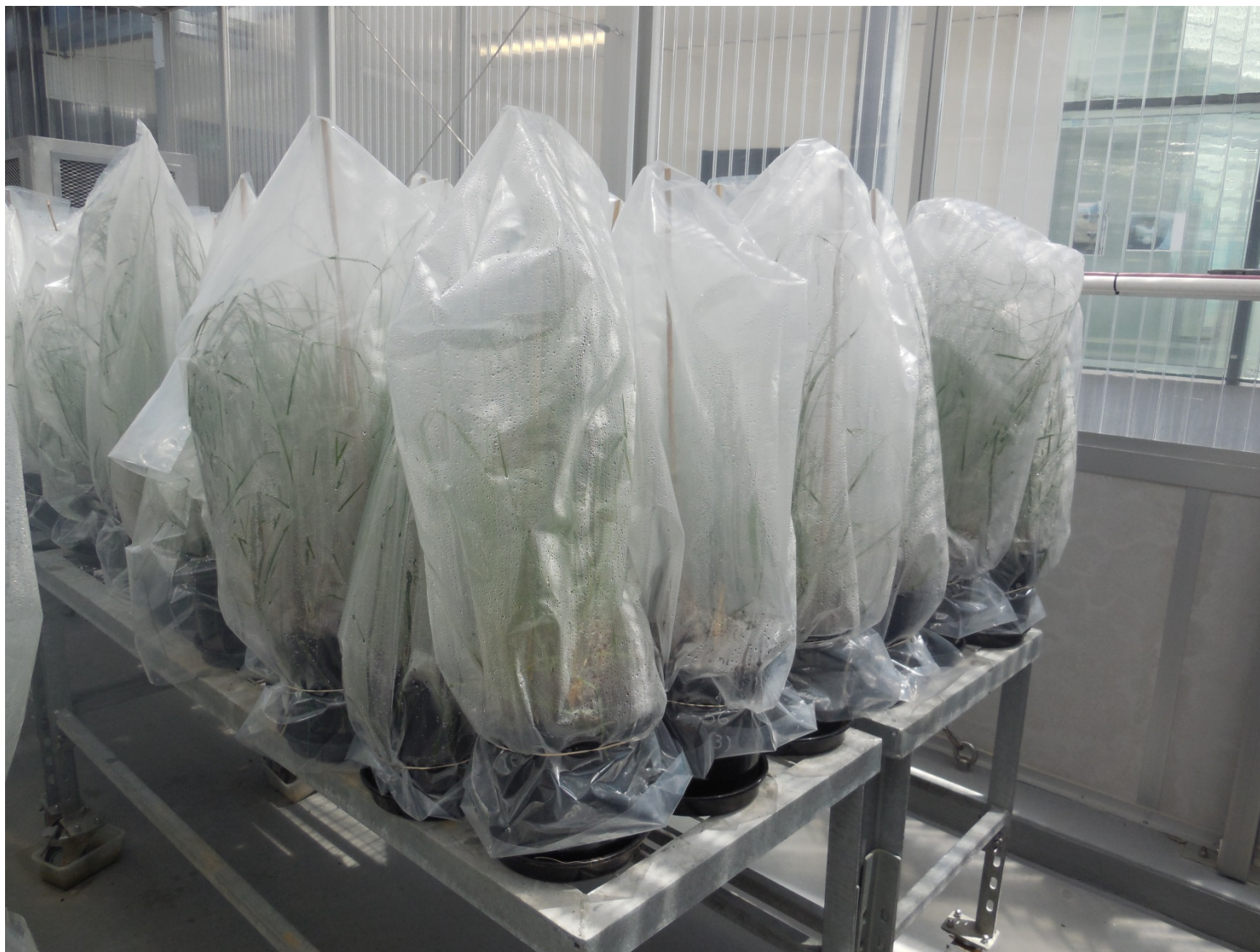
No pathogenic relationship observed between N.Oryzae or either of the Fusaria and GRT.



So did we achieve anything?.....



# MLA Project BERM0089









# Recommendations



19 individual recommendations for future work into GRT control.

- Current knowledge on GRT control
- Understanding the weed
- Improving preparedness
- Contributing to control

## CURRENT KNOWLEDGE ON GRT

- Currently there is a significant amount of research conducted into GRT.
- This research needs to be better amalgamated and more easily accessible.
- Identifying the work will stop replication.
- Help to skill government staff

## UNDERSTANDING THE WEED

- Demographic study – who is it effecting currently
- Understanding the genetic diversity, what forms of WSG are growing where?
- Biodiversity impacts?
- Sediment loss impacts?
- What's the financial cost of control?

## IMPROVING PREPAREDNESS

- Improving management of biosecurity on property.
- Developing effective management plans to tackle significant infestations.

## CONTRIBUTING TO CONTROL

- Improving knowledge on Fluroproponate use
  - Timing , residual, application method, pasture screening, pH, OM, soil moisture.
- Revisiting Stem Wasp (*Tetramesa sp.*)
- Surveying GRT for die-backs
- Developing more holistic control

# NEW PROJECTS

Biosecurity Queensland has submitted a proposal to the RIRDC (Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation), for a funded project on biological control.



There are currently 4 outcomes planned:

1. Lab rearing of Stem Wasp *Tetramesa* for use in controlled environment pot trial utilising WSG.
2. Use of Molecular work for identify potential biocontrol specifically and also identifying the genetic spectrum of WSG in Queensland.
3. Survey for endemic pathogens
4. Survey for addition biocontrol pathogens overseas.



# NEW PROJECTS



Dr Wayne Vogler, Tropical Weeds Research Centre in Charters Towers has submitted a project proposal to MLA in the new round of funding call commencing the beginning of this year.

Objectives of the project are:

- Accelerate the adoption of farm biosecurity practices in particular in the control of GRT.
- Develop a number of producer demonstration sites in targeted areas to fill knowledge gaps
- Reviewing the economics of control methods.
- Collating all the research knowledge to date.

# HOW ARE WE GOING



There are currently some good projects up for funding that are exploring further into GRT control

There are other avenues of funding and collaboration yet to be developed

The funding environment for research at the moment is not great.