# Understanding and mitigating impacts of lesser celandine (Ranunculus ficaria)

Kendra Cipollini, Wesley Flint, Anna Foote, Megan Greenawalt, Mallory Hill, Kelly Schradin, Kyle Titus, Crystal Wagner and Sarah Young

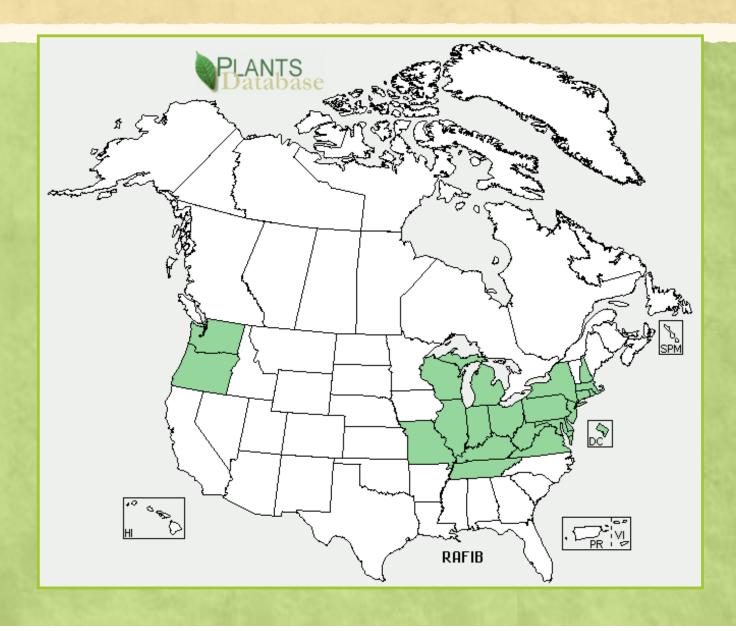








# Ranunculus ficaria var. bulbosa (Ranunculaceae)









## Phenology







#### Questions

- Does *R. ficaria* have a negative impact on native species in the field?
- Is there evidence of nutrient competition and/or allelopathy in the field?

Guilty in the Court of Public Opinion: Testing Presumptive Impacts and Allelopathic Potential of Ranunculus ficaria

KENDRA A. CIPOLLINI1 AND KELLY D. SCHRADIN

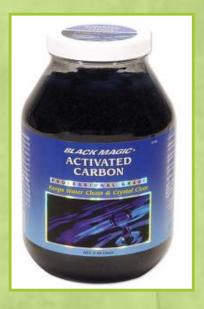
Am. Midl. Nat. (2011) 166:63-74



### Field Experiment

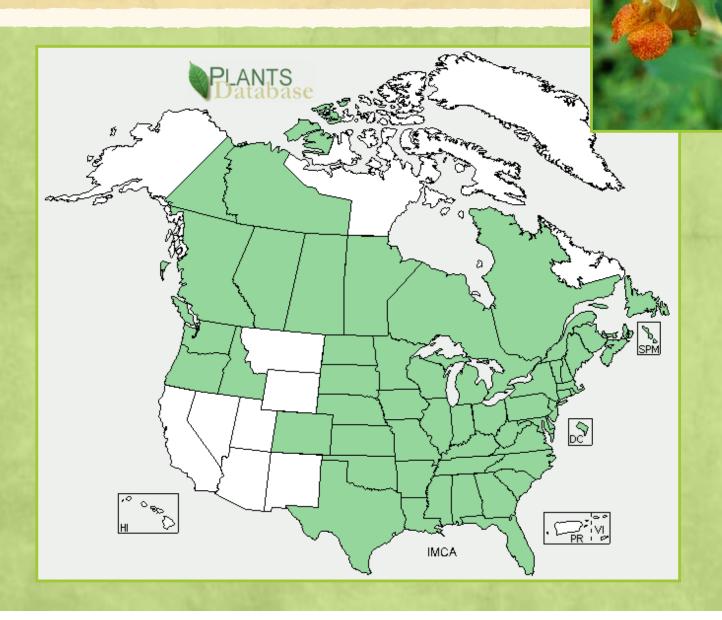
- Fully factorial treatments replicated 4 times
  - Ranunculus ficaria (+/-)
  - Slow-release fertilizer (+/-)
  - Activated carbon (+/-)







## Impatiens capensis

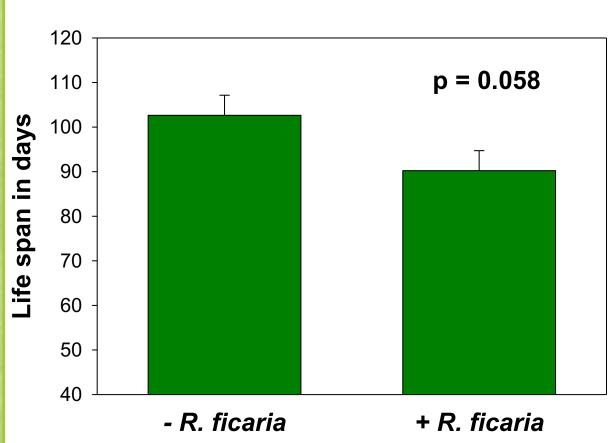




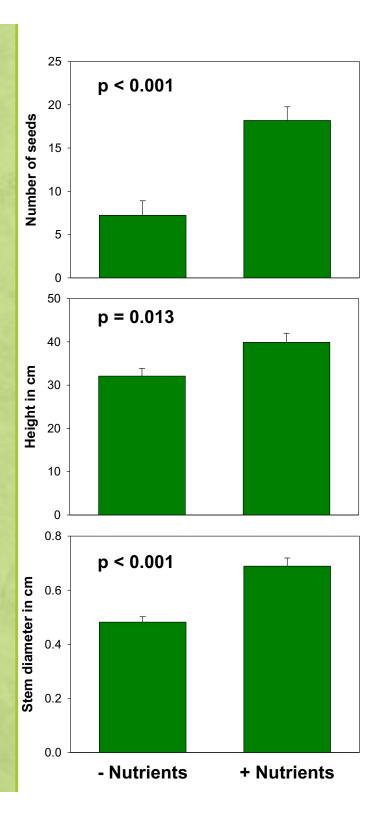
May-August 2009





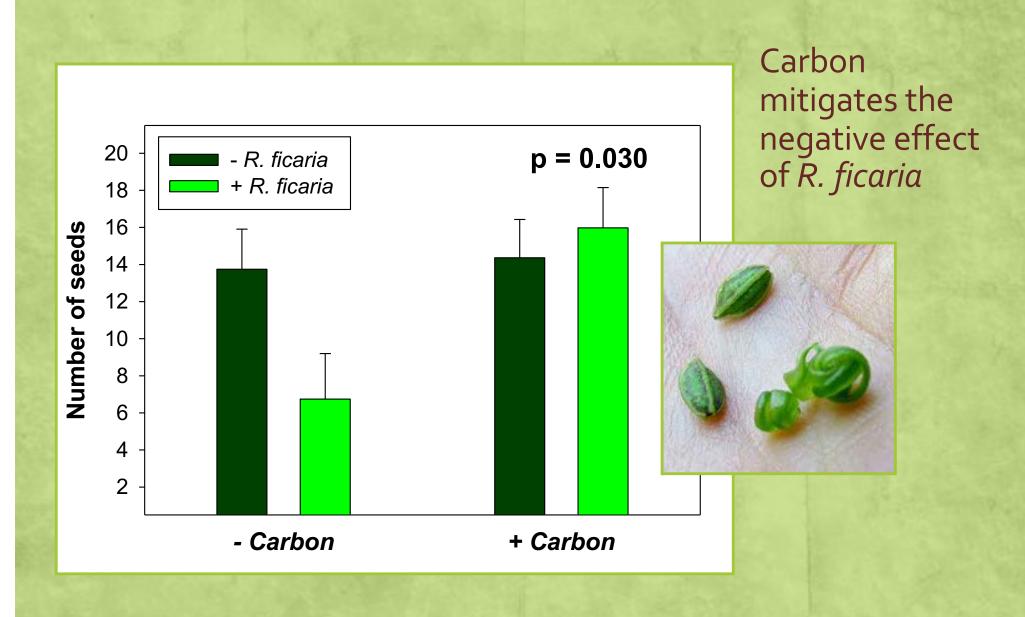


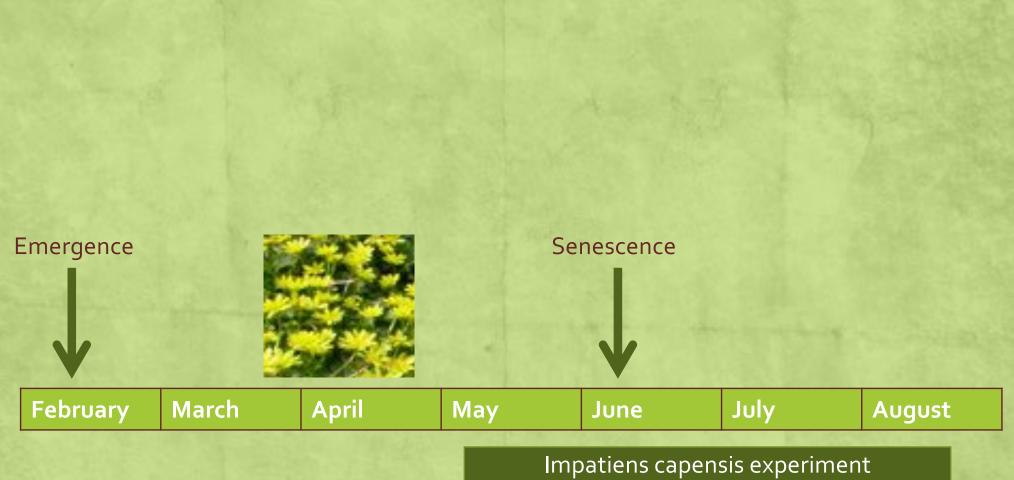
Survival tended to be reduced by presence of *R. ficaria* 



Effect of interaction of presence of nutrients and *R. ficaria* is not significant







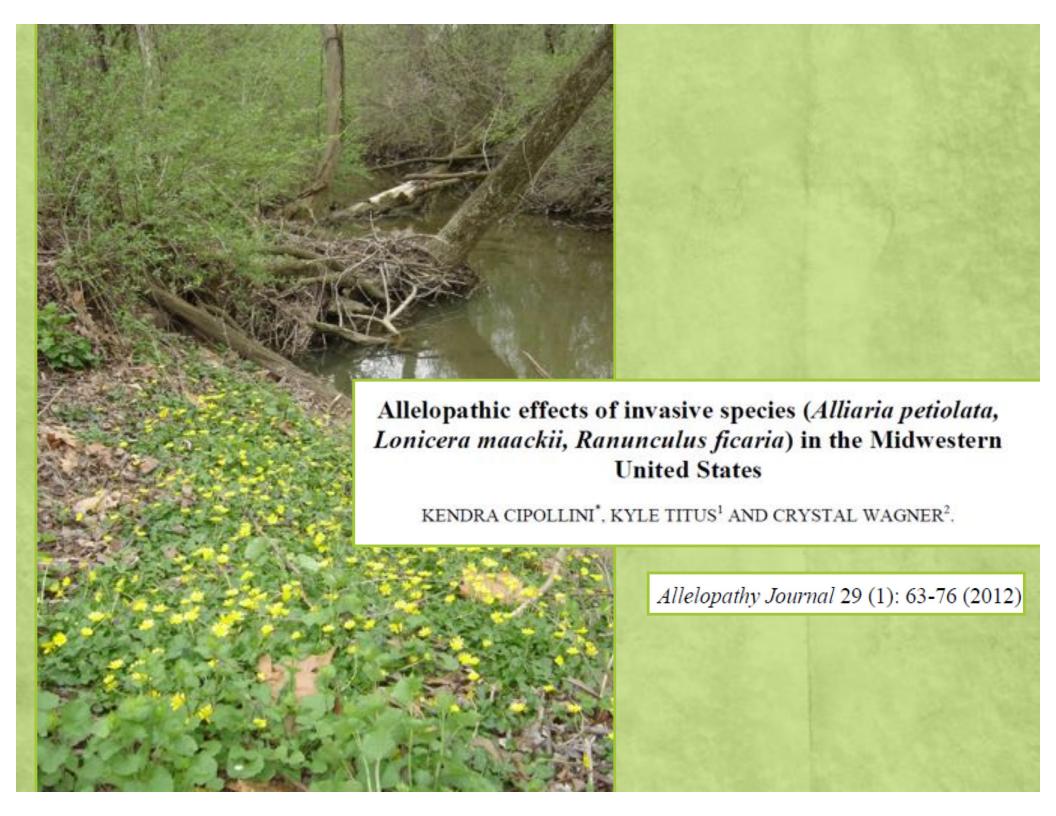


#### Questions

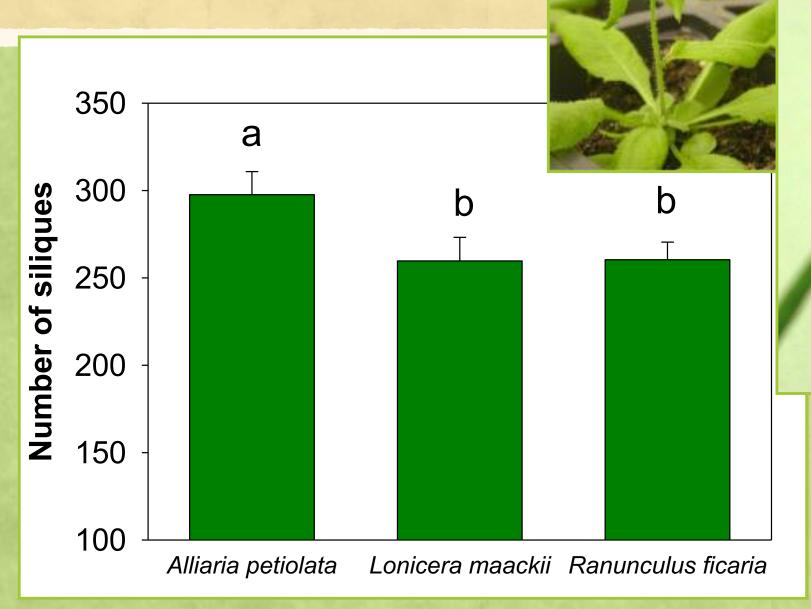
- What is the comparative allelopathic effect of *R. ficaria* in relation to known allelopathic invaders?
- Does the allelopathic effect vary with target test species and with extract type (root or shoot)?







# R. ficaria reduces reproduction in field soil







Cabbage (Brassica olerecea) Brassicaceae

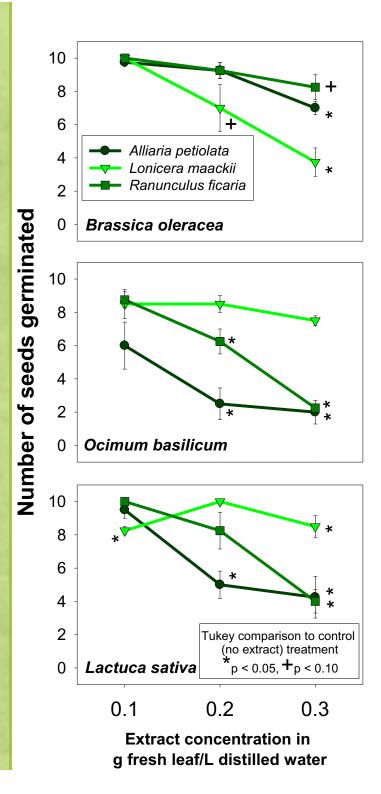


Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) Lamiaceae



Leaf Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) Asteraceae

Effect of the interaction of extract concentration, extract species and test species on germination is significant



## Comparing Allelopathic Effects of Root and Leaf Extracts of Invasive Alliaria petiolata, Lonicera maackii and Ranunculus ficaria on Germination of Three Native Woodland Plants

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Bottlebrush grass (Elymus hystrix)
Poaceae

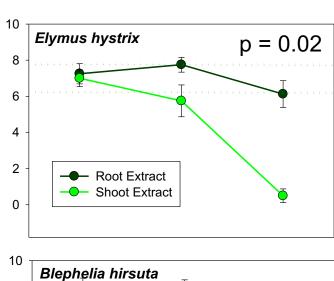


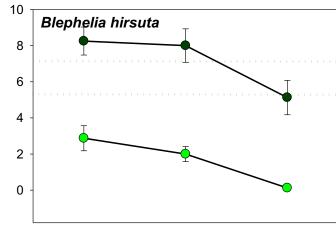
Hairy wood mint (*Blephelia hirsuta*)
Lamiaceae



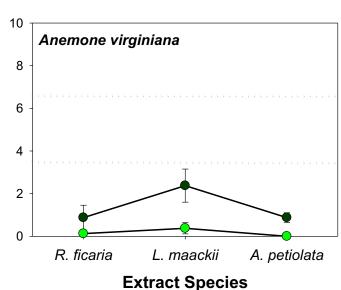
Tall thimbleweed
(Anemone virginiana)
Ranunculaceae

Effect of the interaction of extract type, extract species and test species on germination is significant





**Number of Seeds Germinated** 





Oriental bittersweet (Celastrus orbiculatus) (Ranunculus ficaria) Celastraceae



Lesser celandine Ranunculaceae



Garlic mustard (Alliaria petiolata) Brassicaceae



Amur honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii) Caprifoliaceae



Japanese stiltgrass (Microstegium vimineum) Poaceae

#### Comparison of allelopathic effects of five invasive species on two native species1

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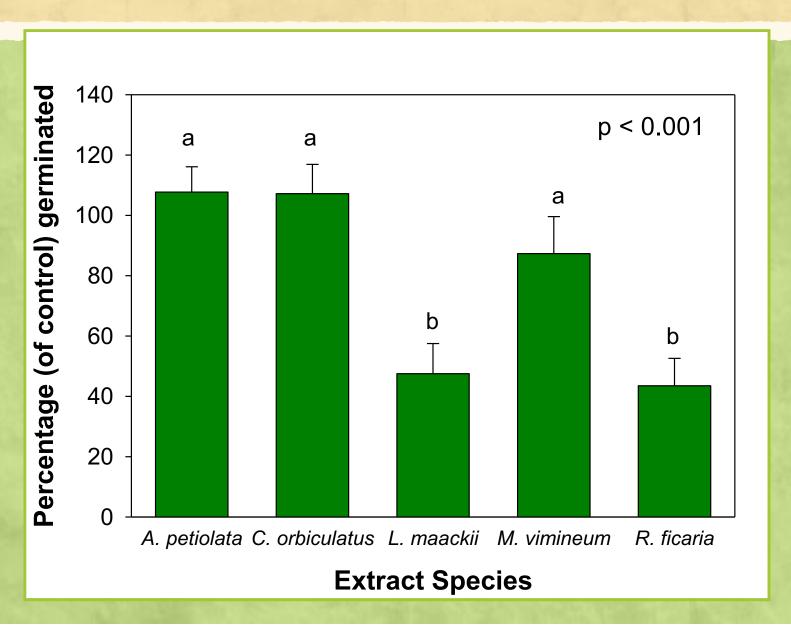
Bottlebrush grass (Elymus hystrix) Poaceae

Journal of the Torrey Botanical Society 143(4): 427-436, 2016.

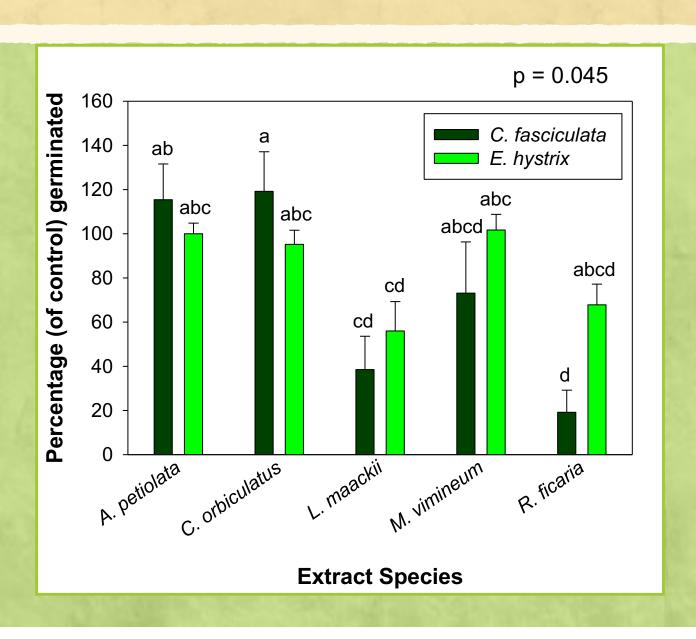


Partridge pea (Chamaecrista fasciculata) Fabaceae

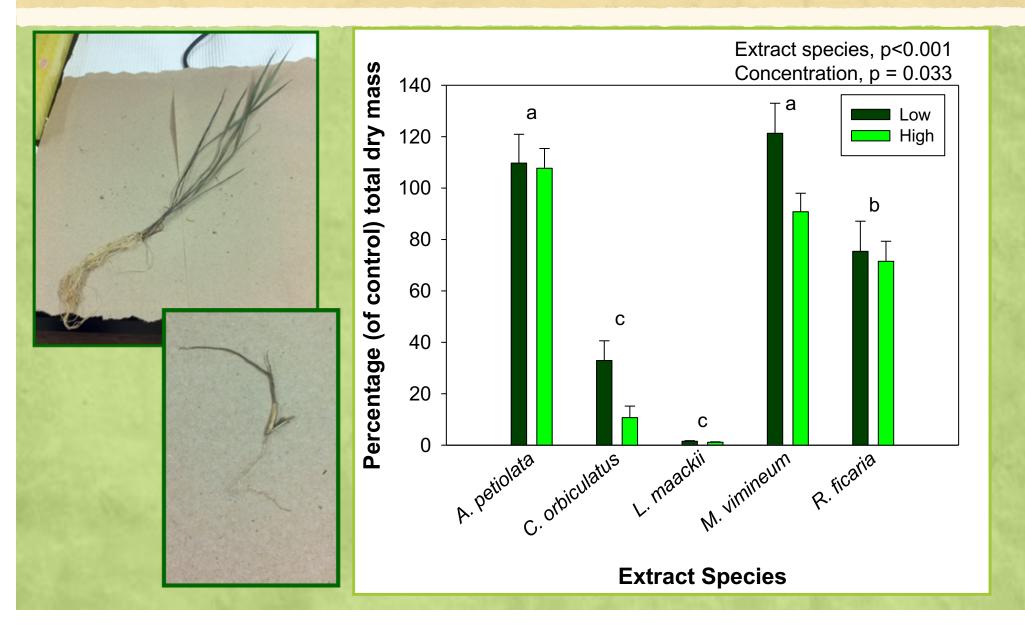
## Greatest inhibition by *L. maackii* and *R. ficaria* across both test species



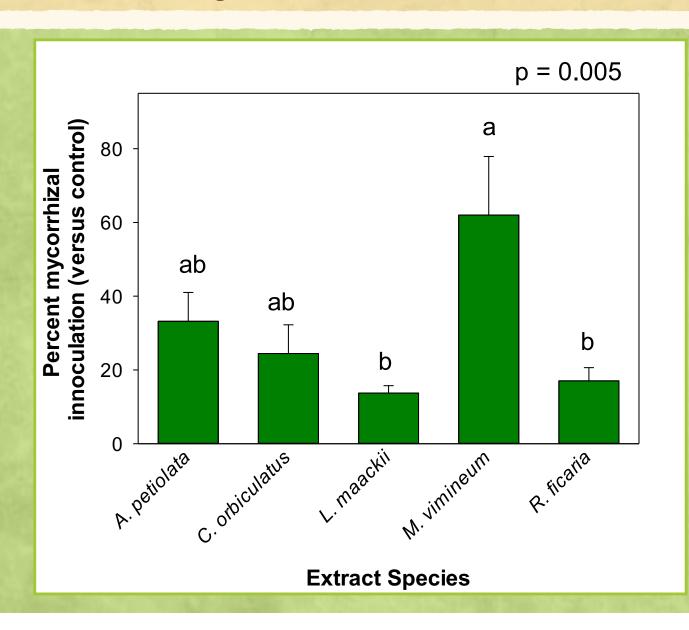
## Germination of C. fasciculata was more sensitive to L. maackii, M. vimineum and R. ficaria

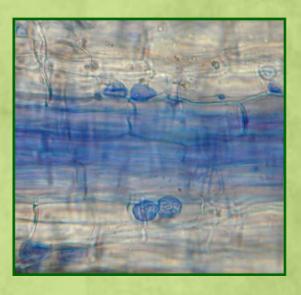


# Growth of *E. hystrix* was negatively affected by *L. maackii*, *C. orbiculatus*, followed by *R. ficaria*; Effect increased with concentration overall



# Less mycorrhizae with *L. maackii* and *R. ficaria*







#### Questions

• What is the best type of herbicide, concentration of herbicide and time of application for control of *R. ficaria* and recovery of native species?

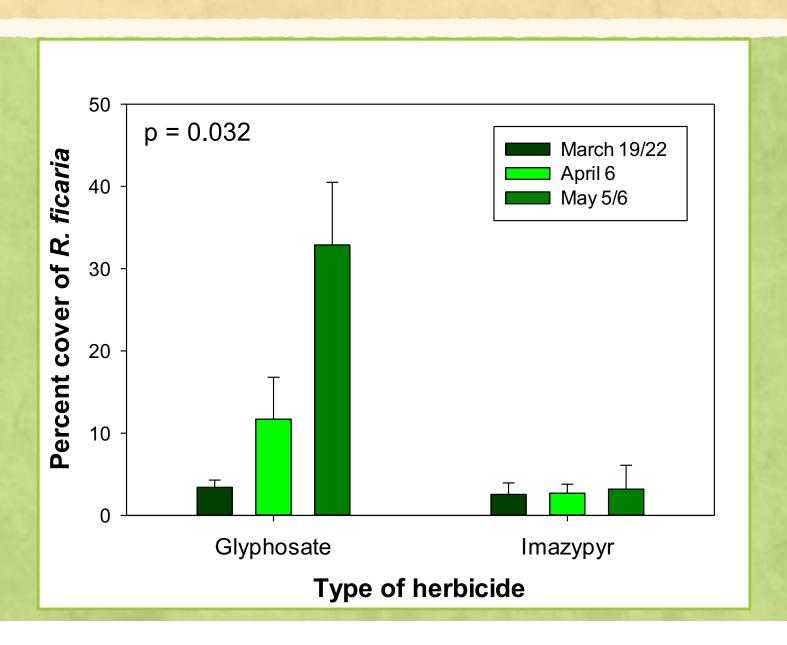


#### Field Experiment

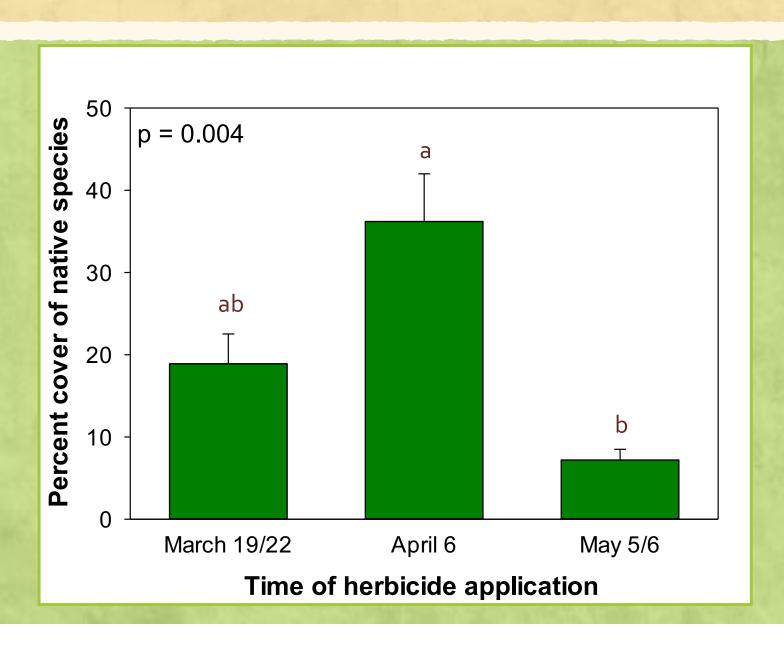
- Fully factorial treatments at three invaded sites (surfactant used in all treatments)
  - Herbicide type (glyphosate/imazapyr)
  - Herbicide concentration (1.5%/3% v/v)
  - Timing of application (pre-flower, flower, post-flower)
- Measured one year after treatments for native species richness and cover of R. ficaria



# Effectiveness of control declines with time of application for glyphosate



# Across both herbicides, best native species cover with April application





#### Early-Season Treatment of Fig Buttercup (Ranunculus ficaria)

Mark N. Frey and John Paul Schmit\*

Invasive Plant Science and Management 2017



#### Conclusions

- Ranunculus ficaria negatively affects survival and reproduction of I. capensis in the field, even with short temporal overlap in growing seasons
- Activated carbon ameliorates negative effect of R. ficaria in the field
- Extracts of *R. ficaria* affect reproduction, germination and growth; the effect varies with target species and type of tissue
- Best control of R. ficaria and recovery of native species was found using imazapyr during the flowering period (early April), followed by glyphosate or imazapyr during pre-flowering period (mid-March)
  - 1.5% works as well as 3%



### Acknowledgments

- Sara Moore
- Tom Borgman

