

## Expanded Role of Entomology in Future Environmental Research

*John H. Skinner,<sup>1</sup> Frederick W. Kutz,<sup>2</sup> and David P. Bottimore<sup>2</sup>*

**T**he U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has numerous legislative mandates to address the adverse impacts of pollution on human health and the environment. In order to fulfill those needs, the agency must make decisions regarding the most appropriate means to develop its policies, regulations, and pollution abatement strategies. The tool that enables the agency to implement the steps to achieve those goals is research.

Research is one of the fundamental tools that promotes environmental quality, because without the strong scientific knowledge that results from research, rational decisions could not be made, standards could not be set, and control technologies could not be developed. Without research we could not identify sources of pollution, the means by which it is transported, and the effects of pollution on human health and the environment. In the past, EPA has pursued many areas of environmental research, especially with respect to the environmental processes and effects of pesticides and toxic substances. The agency is enhancing its overall research and development program to improve its ability to determine the condition of the nation's ecological resources. The EPA is initiating long-term ecological research through the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP). The EMAP will serve to develop the methods and monitoring systems to determine the extent, location, and magnitude

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

<sup>2</sup> Versar Inc., Springfield, VA 22151.