WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage and release mechanism for aerial distribution and release of insects from an unmanned aerial vehicle, the release being aimed at controlling a wild insect population, the wild population having fluctuating local densities, the mechanism comprising a switch for switching between a first sustainable insect delivery rate for release of said insects via said unmanned aerial vehicle and a second sustainable insect delivery rate for release of said insects via said unmanned aerial vehicle, wherein said insects are arranged in a sequence of cartridges, each cartridge sequentially being brought into contact with a release mechanism..

2. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1, wherein storage of said insects prior to release is in a cold storage.

3. The storage and release mechanism of claims 1 or 2, wherein said insects are released from said storage onto a conveyer, said switch setting said conveyor in motion or setting a speed of said conveyer.

4. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1 or claim 2, both of said first and second sustainable insect delivery rates being finitely positive delivery rates

5. The storage and release mechanism of claim 4, wherein the cartridges are radially arranged to rotate and the release mechanism is fixed.

6. The storage and release mechanism of claim 5, wherein the radially arranged cartridges are fixed and the release mechanism rotates around the cartridges.

7. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said storage is in a plurality of cartridges, each cartridge having an independently actuatable opening.

8. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1 or claim 2, comprising a tube having an air inlet and an insect outlet end and a fan controllable to blow air through said tube to expel said insects.

9. The storage and release mechanism of claim 8, wherein said tube has a door at said air inlet end and a door at said insect outlet end, the openings of said doors being synchronized such that said door at said insect outlet end is opened before opening of said door at said air inlet end.

10. The storage and release mechanism of claim 8, wherein said fan is located at said air inlet end and pushes said insects out of said storage.

11. The storage and release mechanism of claim 8, wherein said fan is located at said insect outlet end to pull said insects out of said storage.

12. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1, wherein said storage is in a plurality of cartridges, each cartridge being independently openable.

13. The storage and release mechanism of claim 12, further comprising an expulsion mechanism to empty a recently opened cartridge.

14. The storage and release mechanism of claim 12, wherein the expulsion mechanism is movable towards a cartridge to be opened, or wherein the cartridge to be opened is moved towards said expulsion mechanism.

15. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1, wherein said storage is in a plurality of cartridges, each cartridge being independently openable in a downward direction to allow gravity to cause the insects to fall out.

16. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1, wherein said storage is in a plurality of cartridges and wherein said switch is configured to carry out said switching by defining a rate of opening of said cartridges.

17. The storage and release mechanism of claim 16, wherein one of said sustainable insect delivery rates is set by opening at least two of said cartridges in parallel.

18. The storage and release mechanism of any one of the preceding claims comprising a plurality of insect-containing cartridges configured to proceed along a rail to an opening

position, the opening position being associated with operation of a mechanical opener to open cells, the mechanism comprising an actuatable device to regulate arrival of cartridges at the opening position and thereby switch between said sustainable release rates.

19. The storage and release mechanism of any one of claims 1 to 17, comprising a plurality of insect-containing cartridges openable onto a collection floor, and an expulsion unit placed to disperse insects released from said cartridges towards said collection floor, wherein regulation of said expulsion unit serves to switch between said sustainable release rates.

20. The storage and release mechanism of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein said storage is in a plurality of cartridges, each cartridge having an independently actuatable opening, said cartridges being openable onto a collection floor, the mechanism further comprising an expulsion unit placed to disperse insects from said cartridges, wherein regulation of said expulsion unit serves to switch between said sustainable release.

21. A storage and release method for aerial distribution and release of insects from an unmanned aerial vehicle, the release being aimed at controlling a wild insect population, the wild population having fluctuating local densities, the method comprising:

storing said insects in a plurality of cartridges in said unmanned aerial vehicle;

switching between a first sustainable insect delivery rate for release of said insects via said unmanned aerial vehicle and a second sustainable insect delivery rate for release of said insects via said unmanned aerial vehicle,;

switching sequentially between respective cartridges; and

releasing said insects.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said insects are stored in cold storage, the method comprising warming said insects prior to release.

23. A storage and release mechanism for aerial distribution and release of insects from an unmanned aerial vehicle, the release being aimed at controlling a wild insect population, the mechanism comprising:

at least two cartridges containing insects for distribution, the cartridges configured for mounting on said unmanned aerial vehicle;

a controllable opening mechanism for controllably opening said cartridges to release said insects at a controllable rate; and

a magazine comprising at least two insect-containing cartridges and configured to proceed to an opening position, the opening position being associated with operation of a mechanical opener to open cells, the mechanism comprising an actuatable device to regulate arrival of cartridges at the opening position and thereby control said release rate.

24. The storage and release mechanism of claim 23, wherein said magazine is mounted lengthwise along a length of a wing of said unmanned aerial vehicle.

25. The storage and release mechanism of claim 23, wherein said magazine is mounted perpendicular to a length of a wing of said unmanned aerial vehicle.

26. The storage and release mechanism of claim 23,

wherein the magazine comprises a collection floor, the at least two insect-containing cartridges being openable onto said collection floor; and

an expulsion unit placed to disperse insects released from said cartridges towards said collection floor, wherein regulation of said expulsion unit serves to control said release rate.

27. The storage and release mechanism of claim 23,

wherein the magazine comprises a collection floor, each cartridge having an independently actuatable opening, the plurality of insect-containing cartridges being openable onto a collection floor; and

an expulsion unit placed to disperse insects released from said cartridges to said collection floor, wherein regulation of said expulsion unit serves to control said release.

28. An unmanned aerial vehicle having at least two cartridges mounted thereon, each cartridge containing insects for release, each cartridge being controllably openable to release said insects; the unmanned aerial vehicle further comprising a magazine comprising at least two insect-containing cartridges and configured to proceed to an opening position, the opening position being associated with operation of a mechanical opener to open cells, the mechanism comprising an actuatable device to regulate arrival of cartridges at the opening position and thereby control said release rate.

29. The storage and release mechanism of claim 28, further comprising an insect expulsion mechanism to empty a recently opened cartridge of insects.

30. The unmanned aerial vehicle of claim 28 or claim 29, wherein said at least two cartridges comprise an array of self-opening cartridges, each individually controllable to open and release insects.

31. A storage and release mechanism for insect dispersal from an unmanned aerial vehicle, the mechanism comprising:
a conveyor, for conveying insects from a storage position to a release position;
a door at said release position, said door being openable in synchronization with said conveying of insects along said conveyor, to release said insects for dispersal.

32. The storage and release mechanism of claim 31, wherein said insects are conveyed in at least two cartridges, said mechanism comprising an opener for opening said cartridges as they approach said release point.

33. The storage and release mechanism of claim 31, wherein said insects are arranged in a sequence of cartridges, each cartridge sequentially being brought into contact with a release mechanism.

34. The storage and release mechanism of any one of claims 15 – 17, 23, 29 and 30, wherein the cartridges are radially arranged to rotate and the release mechanism is fixed.

35. The storage and release mechanism of claim 33, wherein the cartridges are radially arranged and fixed and the release mechanism rotates around the cartridges.

36. The storage and release mechanism of any one of claims 1 - 7, 12 to 17, 23, and 28 to 35, comprising a frame for attachment of a variable number of preloaded cartridges.