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## **Endnotes: Appendices 1-3**

# Appendix 1: Authors and Authorities Appendix 2: Finding Biological Control Agents Appendix 3: Forms and Figures

(\*Article begins on following page.)

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## **Finding Biological Control Agents:** Federal Agency Research and Procedures

N. E. Rees, P. C. Quimby, Jr., and J. R. Coulson

The United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service conducts a complex procedure for locating, screening, releasing and monitoring biocontrol agents of weeds. Every effort is taken to ensure that introduced biological weed control agents are limited in host range and do not threaten endangered and native plants. Precautions are taken to ensure that the introduced agents are not parasitized or diseased. Because each weed is so different, and because its complement of natural enemies is also quite varied, it is impossible to predict how long it will take to complete a particular study.

The following discussion outlines USDA, Agricultural Research Service procedures. Other agencies and organizations follow similar procedures. All potential biological control agents must be approved by the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

### Determining the suitability of a target plant

Quite often, public pressure determines the priority of target plants to be studied. At this stage of biological weed control technology, some target plants may not be good candidates for study because: 1) the cost of study might far exceed the economic benefits to be gained; 2) the weed does not appear threatening enough to be of concern; or 3) conflicts of interest exist. The conflict of interest may include the fact that threatened and endangered native plants are closely related to the target weed, or that the weed has some benefits such as nectar production.

When a weed is targeted for study, its native land is identified and scientists begin to check the literature and study the life cycle and natural enemies of that plant. If the plant is difficult to locate in its native environment, or does not attain the vigor, height, or density that it does in North America, then it is considered to be a good candidate for biological control. Discovering potential biological weed-controlling agents on the plant also assists in making this decision.

### Conducting a foreign survey

After the target plant is approved for study, a survey of its homeland is conducted and natural enemies associated with the plant are cataloged. The potential agents are reared, identified, and tested to determine efficacy. This testing is generally conducted for the United States by the USDA-ARS European Biological Control Laboratory (EBCL), state or university scientists working with EBCL, and/or through the International Institute of Biological Control (IIBC). With the aid of published and unpublished literature, records, and observations, scientists evaluate the various organisms identified during the survey as passive feeders (such as bees), or as destructive to the

target plant. Those that are destructive are further examined to determine other plant species they damage. Those with limited host ranges become candidates for additional host-specificity testing.

## Testing for host specificity

The purpose of conducting host specificity tests is to determine the host range of a potential biocontrol agent by exposing it to representative plant species. The plants tested are selected from a centrifugal (concentric circle) plant matrix with the target weed as the center,

representatives of other species from Host-specificity testing 🗮 the same subgenus as the first ring surrounding the center, representatives of species from other What plants - if any - are subgenera but within the attacked by potential same genus as the second biological control ring, representatives from species of related genera agents? of the same tribe as the next ring, and so on, with plants in each additional ring being less related to the arget target weed. In the Weed next-to-last Other plant species; same subgenus outer ring are Other subgenera; same genus plant families of economic or Other genera; same tribe aesthetic value, but (Testing on progressively less-related plant species) generally of no close Plant families of economic or aesthetic value; not relationship. The last ring closely related to target includes unrelated plants with biochemical or morphological Unrelated plants with some characteristics in common characteristics in common with the with the target; plants attacked by close relatives of the target weed, and plant species known proposed biological control agent. to be attacked by close relatives of the biocontrol agent being tested.

The nature of the screening test depends on the target weed and control agent. The degree of specificity that must be demonstrated and the level of risk that is acceptable depend on the importance of the weed and the presence of closely related non-target plant species where the weed is to be controlled.

In "no-choice" feeding and egg-laying tests, agents are isolated as male/female groups in cages, each with a test plant, until the agents either die, feed, or lay eggs. When the agent dies from apparent starvation without physically damaging the plant or laying eggs on the plant, the plant group is designated as outside the potential host range. When feeding or egg-laying occur, the test continues to determine whether: 1) the agents can survive in or on the test plant; 2) deposited eggs hatch; and/or 3) the agents can complete their life cycle in or on the test plant. The amount of damage inflicted on the test plant is evaluated.

The highly artificial conditions of these tests may lead to abnormal results and the rejection of agents that are host-specific under field conditions. Therefore, when possible, outdoor testing of previously rejected candidates should be conducted in the native land of the biocontrol agent. This provides more natural information about the host plant range.

## Petitioning

Petitions are written during three phases of the investigations to clear biological control agents for introduction into the United States. The first petition requests permission to work on a specific plant and its agents. The target weed must be shown to be a suitable candidate for a biological control program. The second petition requests permission to introduce biological control agents into quarantine for host-specificity testing. When all host range testing has been completed, a third petition containing the test results is written. This is written as an Environmental Assessment (EA), which is in reality a measurement of risk, or a risk assessment.

Copies of the petitions are sent to Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), a branch of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). PPQ is the federal government agency responsible for issuing permits to import, transport, and release insects into the United States. Associated with APHIS-PPQ is a group of professionals called the "Technical Advisory Group on the Introduction of Biological Control Agents of Weeds" (TAG), which is responsible for advising APHIS-PPQ about the accuracy and completeness of the host-specificity testing. Members also ensure that the concerns of the Endangered Species Act and the Native and Endangered Plant Act are addressed.

TAG may decide that: 1) the agent may be dangerous and should not be introduced; 2) the agent needs more testing; or 3) the agent appears safe and may be introduced. APHIS-PPQ then considers the advice of TAG, but is not obligated to follow TAG's recommendations should APHIS-PPQ have additional concerns or information.

If more testing is required, the petition is returned and additional information and data must be obtained before the petition is resubmitted. If, after careful study APHIS-PPQ decides that all is in order, it then submits the petition for evaluation of the Environmental Assessment (EA). Failure to pass this examination means that more testing must be completed and the petition resubmitted, but this time possibly in the form of a more detailed Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Approval of the EA or EIS satisfies the remaining requirements and allows a permit to be issued.

### **Obtaining permission to make field releases**

Those who want to release biological control agents in their own state must complete a form PPQ-526, "Application and Permit to Move Live Plant Pests or Noxious Weeds" (see Appendix 3). This form must also be completed to move biocontrol agents across state lines. The application is sent to the Department of Agriculture in the state in which the release is to be made. The form must be signed and sent for processing to the USDA-APHIS-PPQ office, Biological Assessment and Taxonomic Support (BATS), 4700 River Road, Unit 113, Riverdale, MD 20737. When this is signed by PPQ, a copy will be returned to the applicant as an approval record. These permits are valid for a specified time. Penalties for misuse or nonuse of permits can be fines and/or imprisonment.

### Validating shipments

After the researcher receives approval to introduce a biological control agent, collections are made overseas and the agent is shipped into a quarantine laboratory in the United States. Here some of the insects are killed, mounted, and sent to a taxonomist (an authority for that group, generally associated with the USDA Agricultural Research Service's Systematic Entomological Laboratory) to confirm that the species designation is accurate. At the same time, some insects are sent to an insect pathologist to determine whether they contain any parasitoids or pathogens. Rearing the colony through one generation may eliminate parasitoids from the population.

If a pathogen is detected, two possible courses may be taken: either the colony can be destroyed and a pathogen-free collection site located, or the colony can be split up and reared in individual containers, each

containing one male and one female. Deposited eggs are kept under a "parent number" until the females have ceased laying eggs. The adults are then sacrificed and examined for pathogens. Eggs from contaminated couples are destroyed while eggs from healthy couples are reared. This process continues until the colony is pathogen-free.

## **Documentation**

Scientists keep detailed records of all biological control agents imported into U.S. quarantine facilities, all shipments from quarantine, all field releases of the exotic species in the United States, and all transfers of established, introduced species into other areas of the United States. Voucher specimens of the introduced agents plus instructions for field releases are also retained by the quarantine facilities to provide specimens for later taxonomic studies, or for verification of the identity of the species released. Certain forms are used in this documentation process, including USDA Form AD-943 (see Appendix 3) for recording non-quarantine shipments and releases. Non-quarantine personnel involved in releases or recolonization of introduced biological control agents may be asked to help document the dispersal of the agents by using the forms or by providing pertinent data to the scientist evaluating the biological control program.

## **Forms and Figures**

Sample Landowner Agreement

Sample Biological Control Agent Release Form

USDA-APHIS-PPQ Form 526 "Application and Permit to Move Live Plant Pests or Noxious Weeds"

USDA-APHIS-PPQ Form 549 "Interstate Shipment Authorized" (Shipping Labels)

USDA Form AD-943 "Biological Shipment Record - Non-Quarantine"

The following document is a sample of the agreement that USDA Agricultural Research Service scientists use with private landowners. It may be modified to be appropriate for many situations.

#### STANDARD COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT NO.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, hereinafter referred to as ARS, and \_\_\_\_\_(cooperator)\_\_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter referred to as the Cooperator, recognize that the results of \_\_\_\_\_\_(type of research)\_\_\_\_\_\_ are of mutual benefit, as well as of benefit to all the people of the United States of America. In consideration of such mutual benefit, the parties hereto agree as follows:

#### A. THE COOPERATOR AGREES:

- 1. To be responsible for furnishing the following for use of ARS for the purpose of carrying out entomological experiments for the control of weeds which are injurious to \_\_\_\_\_\_ (location) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. To grant ARS representatives such rights to ingress or egress use of property as may be required for the conduct of the work and to obtain the results thereof.
- 3 To allow ARS to take necessary measures for the control of destructive and noxious weeds which are injurious to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the purpose of developing more effective methods for economically controlling such weeds.

#### B. ARS AGREES:

- 1. To be responsible for furnishing such additional supplies, equipment, material, and personnel as may be required to conduct research.
- 2. To use only such materials and equipment on the land or crops of the Cooperator as have been previous tested and have shown no serious harmful effects at the concentrations and in the manner employed.
- 3. To exercise all reasonable precautions to avoid injury to the land, crops, or other property of the Cooperator.

#### C. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED:

- 1. Federal Tort Claims Act procedures are available for use by the Cooperator to recover financial or other losses suffered by the Cooperator as a result of this Cooperative Agreement when the loss is over and above the Cooperator's insurance liability coverage and it can be demonstrated that the loss resulted from a negligent act by a Federal employee acting within the scope of his/her employment.
- 2. The responsibilities assumed by ARS are contingent upon funds being available from which the expenditures may be met.
- 3. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon 60 calendar days' notice in writing to the other party.
- 4. Copies of correspondence between the Cooperator and the Authorized Departmental Officer's Designated Representative shall be sent to the Authorized Department Officer.

Total time length of agreement is \_\_\_\_\_\_.

(Date)

(Cooperator)

(Date)

(ARS Representative)

### SAMPLE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENT RELEASE FORM

Target Weed				Date				
(Common name	)							
Agent				Num	ber release	d		
(Scientific name)								
County		т	R		Sec	1/	4	
County		Townshi	ipNS F	Range E W	Section			
ot	Long				C Darivad?	Vaa	No	
Latitude	<b>Long.</b>	naitude		GP	S Deriveu?	ies	NO	
Land Owner: BLM	_ USFS P	RIVATE	_ USFWS	5 ST/	ATE OT	HER		
Land Manager:	t & Ranger Area / Nati	onal Forget & Par	nger District / I	Refuge / Dept	of Transportation /	City / Coun	ty / Bancher	etc.)
	a nanger Area / Nati		nger District / I	leiuge / Dept.	or manaportation /		ity / Hanchel,	610.)
Site Name:								
(Use geographica	I reference: mountain,	river, valley, road	l, campground	powerline, etc	2.)			
SITE DATA Check all it	ems that apply	and fill in hla	anks (Drav	w man on	hack of form	)		
	erno inal apply			n map on		•)		
Nearest town		Road			Mile	Post		
<b>Neather:</b> Clear F	artly cloudly	Cloudy		Temp	W	ind		
Slope: None Slig Soil: Sandy Loam	ht Moder	ateS	Steep		Aspect: S	E	W	N
Soil: Sandy Loam	Silt	Gravel	Clay	_	Elevation			
<b>Ferrain:</b> Valley Foo	othill Mour	ntain P	lain	River	_ Lake/Pond			
Vegetation: Grassland	Shrub lan	d Croj	p land	_ Riparia	n Conif	er forest	·	
Deciduous forest								
Plant Cover: (estimate '	%) Target weed		_ Forbs (	not includi	ng target)			
Grasses	_ Shrubs	Trees		Litter	Bare	ground		
Dominant Plant Species Land Use: Range	S:							
Land Use: Range	_ Timber	_ Wildlife	Right	t of Way _	Pastur	e	Crop	
Vacant W								
Disturbance Factors: (								
Cultivation	_ Construction	Othe	er					
infectation Type, lealet	ad Datak			Continue				
Infestation Type: Isolate Size of Infestation: (Ac						n		
<b>Target Weed Height:</b> (Fe <b>Weed Density:</b> (plants/se	$\frac{1}{2}$	2.5	S-0	. ≥/ 11_25	- 26.0	0	<100	
Stage of Development:	Seedling	_ 2-3 _ Rosette	Bolti	<u> </u>	Budding	J	_ 2100	
Flowering								
Other Biocontrol Agent								
Second Second Second								
Source of Agents				Date	Collected			
Stage Released: Egg _	Larva	Pupa	Adul	t	(In plant mat	erial)		
Cooperators:								
Reported by:								
							·····	

(Sample Biological Control Agent Release Form - continued)	
Directions to release site:	

Please draw or attach a map to the release site. Indicate the release site with an "X" in a circle. Indicate North with an arrow. Label roads and features.

Remarks: (Condition of insects, breeding or egg-laying observed, predators, etc.)

USDA APHIS/ARS Release Rec. No. (if applicable)

#### **RETURN ORIGINAL FORM TO:**

(Retain a copy for your records.)

If you have questions, call:

## USDA-APHIS-PPQ FORM 526

Application and Permit to Move Live Plant Pests or Noxious Weeds

	Minute at a 1							nem ation			
Calion is received (7 CFR 330	See reverse side for additional OMS information. OMS NO. 0579-0054										
Deborah Knott USDA, APHIIS, PPQ, BATS					SECTION A - TO BE COMPLETED BY THE APPLICANT						
4700	1. NAME, TITLE, AND ADDRESS (Include Zip Code)										
	rdale, MD, 20737-12										
	ON AND PERMIT			1							
	PESTS OR NOXI	OUS WEEDS	; 								
3. TYPE OF PEST TO BE MOVE		_									
Arthropods	Naxious Weeds 😁 🔄 Other (Specify)	Genetically Er	gineered	2. TELEPHO	NE NO. (	)					
		8.	C	0.		E		F. ARE	a.		
SCIENTIFIC NAME A. TO BE MO		CLASSIFICA (Orders, Fam Races, or Str	NON ST						R HOST(S) OF THE PEST		
4.											
5.											
6.											
7. WHAT HOST MATERIAL OR	SUBSTITUTES WILL ACC	COMPANY WHICH	PESTS (Indica	de by line numb	er)						
8. DESTINATION		3	PORT OF AR	RIVAL			18. AP	PROXIMATE I	ATE OF ARE	IVAL OR	
11. NO. OF SHIPMENTS	12. SUPPLIER				13. MET	100 OF SHIP	ENT			**** <u>*******</u> ***	
						Air Mail	🗌 Air	Freight	Baggag	e 🗌 Auto	
14. INTENDED USE (Be specific	, attach outline of intend	jed research)									
15. METHODS TO BE USED TO				16. METHOD		MONTIANA					
	PRETENI PLANI PESI I	ESCAPE									
17. Applicant must be a re I/We agree to comply to reverse of this form, a	with the safeguards p		SIG	NATURE OF AP	PLICANT (A	lust be person	named i	n Item 1)		18. DATE	
subject to other condi-											
	tions specified in Sec	tions B and C.									
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## USDA-APHIS-PPQ FORM 549

Interstate Shipment Authorized (Shipping Labels)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE
FEDERAL BUILDING
HYATTSVILLE, MD 20782
INTERSTATE SHIPMENT AUTHORIZED
The living organisms contained in this package are

shipped interstate under authority of the Federal Plant Pest Act of May 23, 1957, the Plant Quarantine Act of August 20, 1912, as amended, or the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974.

VA	LID	UNTIL	

PPO FORM 549 Previous edition may be used. (DEC 81)

## USDA FORM AD-943

Biological Shipment Record - Non-Quarantine

	U.S. De	partment of Agricu	lture							M 8 NG	<b>UUR.</b>	M NC	. 2/28/87) 14. V.S. (see files)
BIOLOGICAL S	HIPME	NT RECORD -	NON-QUAP	RANTINE	E			Rai			1. A.		• 🗆 🖉
- FROM (N			ON I - REP				LEASED OR SHI				PER / RELL	ACED E	LE NO
1. FROM (Name & address o	of Shipp	er/Releaser)		2 BENEF	FICIA	AL ·A.GO	n., sp., subsp., auti	•	argan.	(see it	nstruction	s)	LL 110.
				B. Order:		-	and affiliation if h			4. TYPE	edator crobial in		Eed feeder Ollinator Ther
	d to field TY (S) - S		boratory cult it Town	ure)		9. SOURCE AD Part	Part   E FILE NOS. 942, AD-943: No A Other: TRIES/REGION/S		aborat	ory Cu			
6. DATES OF COLLECTION (	'm,d,y)	7. COLLECTORS (Na affiliations)	mes and		_		AL COLLECTOR iliations)	5 (Names		NO. LAI eleaser ] F 1	location) - F <sub>10</sub>		t shipper/ +
8. U.S. FIELD HOSTS/PRE A. Genus, species	Y AT CO	LLECTION	IB. Sta I atta cod	ge/part acked (see les)			ATORY HOST/PR us, species	EY				B. Stage/ attacks codes)	part ed <i>(see</i>
<b>.</b>			SECT	ION II – R	REPO	RT OF SH	IPMENT						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
14. SHIPPED TO (Name & a	ddress)	4 <u> </u>					TAGES SHIPPED(U	se codes or	n rever	re)	16. DATE	SHIPPED	(m,d,y)
						17. SHIPPE	R'S REMARKS					MENS RE	TAINED
VIA : 19. DATE RECEIVED (m,d,y)	120 100					-	ER'S REMARKS					s	nos.
in. DATE RECEIVED (mμ,y)		ec'd. Alive	B. Emerged ( Est]	Beneficialı		ZI. RECEIV	ER'S REMARKS						
22. SPECIMENS RETAINED BY RECEIVER	23. INTE		Lab cultur (complete			24. INTENC	ED LAS HOST / P	HEY -Gen.,	sp.				
□No □Yesnos,		omediate release	B. Release	e intended. Ase intende									
	III — RE	PORT OF RELEAS	E/RECOLO			e instructio		use Form	AD-94	3A for			
25. Types of release			ITE 1	Cage		Field Other:	Greenhouse	Cage		ield hther:	Gree		Cage
26. Locations (State, Count nearest Town or physica feature, map coordinate (Use AD-943A for more the instructions on cover	s) details;												
27. Number & stages release (Use codes; see instruct for recording multiple releases.)	ed	[Est]			Est	]			(Est)				
28. Dates of releases (m,d,y (See instructions for recording multiple releases.)									×				
29. Target hosts/prey at rele A. Primary – Genus, spe									L_				
B. Other - Genus, specie	5				-				<b>-</b> -				
C. Families 30. Food (plant/animal/oth of target host/prey at release	er)												
31. Released by (Name a)	nd on)												
32. REMARKS (Use AD-94	3A for n	nore details)							A.Na		ED BY		
Form AD-943 (10/83)								Part				n cent	ER COPY

		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				ON		518-0013 (EXP. 2/28/87)	
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA				en writing-carbons will dis otocopy and staple to form		5.		r's File Number AD-943)	
<b>C</b>	Secti	on A - RELEASE SI	TE DE	TAILS, SITE NO			1		
<ul> <li>Township, route no., Farmer's</li> </ul>	name, etc. • Map of re	lease site. N		WEATHER		TEMP	-		
			_			WIND			
		w	E	TIME OF RELEASE					
		Ś							
				CONDITION OF CROP F	TELD				
				CONDITION OF RELEA	SE MATE	RIAL			
				PREDOMINANT TARGI STAGE PRESENT	ET HOST/	PREY			
				TARGET HOST/PREY	BUNDAN	CE			
				ADDITIONAL HOST/PR	EYPRES	ENT			
OTHER COMMENTS				1			REPOP	TED BY & DATE	
	Section B - DETA		L RE	LEASES (Attach additiona	al sheets as	needed.	)		
		ouse Cage		eld Greenhouse CC	age		1 🗆 G	reenhouse Cage	
Types of release Locations (State, County,	Other:	- Million -		ther:			ir:		
nearest Town or physical feature, map coordinates)									
Number and stages released (See codes)	(Est)		[Est]			[Est]	[Est]		
Dates of release (m,d,y)									
Target hosts/prey at release A. Primary – <i>Genus, species</i>			<b> </b>						
B. Other - Genus, species	<b> </b>						. – –		
C. Families Food (plant/animal/other) of target host/prey at release			$\left  \right $		· ***				
Released by	+								
(Alternatives 1 and 2)	Section C - DET	AILS OF MULTIPLE	RELE	EASES (Attach additional	sheets as n	eeded.)			
Dates of release	Nos, Released (stages)	Dates of release	SITI	Nos. Released (stages)	Dates	s of relea	\$17 50	ENos. Released (stages)	
				(					
(Alternative 3)		<b>.</b>			L			L	
Counties		L	Locat	ions	Date	s of Rele	256	No. Released (Stages)	
REMARKS							A. Nan		
Form AD-943A (10/83)							jB. Date	(m,d,y)	