



1 July 2015

## Biosecurity Advice 2015/07

### Draft risk analysis report for the release of *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* for the biological control of yellow lac scale (*Tachardina aurantiaca*)

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders that a draft risk analysis report has been issued, to consider a proposal for the release of the microhymenopteran parasitoid *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* for the biological control of yellow lac scale (*Tachardina aurantiaca*). The draft report is being issued for 30 days consultation. Written comments and submissions are invited by 31 July 2015.

The Department of Agriculture has issued a draft risk analysis report assessing an application from the Director of National Parks to release the microhymenopteran parasitoid *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* for the biological control of yellow lac scale (*Tachardina aurantiaca*) on Christmas Island. In support of this application, the applicant has provided a submission detailing results of host specificity testing, along with other relevant information. This submission is included as an attachment to the draft report.

A preliminary draft of this report was distributed to state and territory departments of primary industry and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) through the Plant Health Committee (PHC). Comments received through this consultation process were incorporated into the draft risk analysis report.

The Director of National Parks submitted an application for the release of *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* in November 2014.

The Department of the Environment also has an approval process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*. Under Section 303EE (4) of the EPBC Act, risk analysis reports prepared by the Department of Agriculture may be used by the Environment Minister in making a determination to include the item on the List of specimens suitable for live import (the live import list). The Department of Agriculture has consulted with the Department of the Environment prior to the release of the draft report and Environment agrees with the recommendations in this report.

The draft report proposes that the biological control agent should be released. The draft report has identified moderate off-target effects with negligible potential consequences that would be associated with the release of *Tachardiaephagus somervillei*. The risk is estimated to be negligible, which meets Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The draft report, attachment and information about the risk analysis process are available on the department's website [agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/reviews/biological-control-agents](http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/reviews/biological-control-agents).

In accordance with the IRA handbook 2011, this risk analysis has been undertaken as a non-regulated analysis of existing policy. Stakeholders will have up to 30 days to submit written comments on the draft report. Comments must be submitted by 31 July 2015.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Plant Biosecurity.

Louise van Meurs  
A/g First Assistant Secretary  
Plant Division

Contact: David Heinrich  
Telephone: +61 2 6272 3220  
Facsimile: +61 2 6272 3307  
Email: [plant@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:plant@agriculture.gov.au)

***Lodging a submission:*** There is no specific format for a submission, but they must be in writing, and identify the relevant technical biosecurity issues being raised with supporting evidence. Preferably, submissions should be in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats and lodged electronically via email, but postal submissions are acceptable. Submissions should be received by the department within the stated comment period and addressed to:

Plant Biosecurity  
Australian Government Department of Agriculture  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601  
AUSTRALIA  
Telephone: +61 2 6272 5094  
Facsimile: +61 2 6272 3307  
Email: [plant@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:plant@agriculture.gov.au)

***Privacy:*** Personal information collected by the department will only be used to enable the department to contact you about your submission and may be disclosed to specialists, another Commonwealth government agency, a State or Territory government agency or foreign government department, provided the disclosure is consistent with relevant laws, in particular the Privacy Act 1988.

The department requests that, as a minimum, you provide your name and contact details with your submission. Please indicate if you do not wish to have personal information published with your submission or disclosed to third parties. Collected personal information will be used and stored consistent with the Australian Privacy Principles as outlined in the department's Privacy Policy available on the department's website.

***Confidentiality:*** Subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, content of submissions may be made public, unless you state you want all or part of your

submission to be treated as confidential. A claim for confidentiality must be justified and provided as an attachment, marked 'Confidential'. 'Confidential' material will not be made public. The department reserves the right not to publish submissions.

No breach of confidence will occur if the department shares your submission with a third party referred to under 'Privacy' in seeking advice in response to your submission.

***Intellectual property:*** Responsibility for compliance with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in submissions rests with the author(s). In lodging a submission, you warrant you have not knowingly infringed any third party IPR. By lodging a submission, you grant the Commonwealth a permanent, irrevocable, royalty-free, world-wide, non-exclusive licence to use, copy, reproduce, adapt, communicate and exploit all or any of the material contained in the submission.