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Biosecurity Advice 2015/15

Final 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 final risk analysis report has been issued for the release of the micro wasp *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* for the biological control of yellow lac scale (*Tachardina aurantiaca*). The final report recommends that release of *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* should be permitted, subject to standard quarantine conditions associated with the import and release of biological control agents.

The final report takes into consideration submissions received by stakeholders on the draft report released in July 2015.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has issued a final risk analysis report assessing an application from the Director of National Parks to release the micro wasp *Tachardiaephagus somervillei* for the biological control of yellow lac scale (*Tachardina aurantiaca*) on Christmas Island.

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.

A draft risk analysis report was released for a 30 day stakeholder consultation period on 1 July 2015. Written submissions from two stakeholders were considered in the preparation of the final report. Both submissions raised no objections to the draft recommendation to allow release of *Tachardiaephagus somervillei*.

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 and Water Resources 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 and Water Resources has consulted with the Department of the Environment prior to the release of the final report and Environment agrees with the recommendations in this report.

The final report recommends that the biological control agent should be released. The 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 final 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.

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