

**Decision and Finding of No Significant Impact for the
Environmental release of *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) for
classical biological control of garlic mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* (Brassicaceae), in the
contiguous United States
July 2025**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to issue permits for the environmental release of *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). This agent would be used for the biological control of garlic mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* (Brassicaceae), in the contiguous United States. Before permits are issued for the release of *C. scrobicollis*, APHIS must analyze the potential impacts of its release into the contiguous United States consistent with National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended and USDA's NEPA Implementing Regulations (Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), part 1b). APHIS has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential environmental consequences of this action. The EA is available from:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Plant Protection and Quarantine Pests, Pathogens, and Biocontrol Permits
George Washington Carver Center
5601 Sunnyside Avenue
Beltsville, Maryland 20705
<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/laws-regs/nepa>

The EA analyzed the following two alternatives in response to a request for permits authorizing the environmental release of *C. scrobicollis*: (1) no action, and (2) issue permits for the release of *C. scrobicollis* for the biological control of garlic mustard (preferred alternative). A third alternative, to issue permits with special provisions or requirements concerning release procedures or mitigating measures, was considered. However, this alternative was dismissed because no issues were raised that indicated that special provisions or requirements were necessary. The No Action alternative, as described in the EA, would likely result in continued use at the current level of chemical, cultural, and mechanical controls for the management of garlic mustard. These control methods described are not alternatives for decisions to be made by APHIS but are presently being used to control garlic mustard in the United States and may continue regardless of permit issuance for field release of *C. scrobicollis*.

I have decided to authorize APHIS to issue permits for the environmental release of *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis*. The reasons for my decision are:

- *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* is sufficiently host specific and poses little, if any, threat to the biological resources, including non-target plant species and pollinators, in the contiguous United States.
- *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* is not likely to adversely affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or their critical habitats in the contiguous United States.
- *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* pose no threat to human or wildlife health.
- *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* is expected to result in benefits to wildlife.
- Release of *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* in the contiguous United States is not expected to have any negative aggregate impacts because of its host specificity to garlic mustard.
- There are no disproportionate adverse effects to children in accordance with Executive Order 13045, "Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks."
- While there is not total assurance that the release of *Ceutorhynchus scrobicollis* into the environment will be reversible, there is no evidence that this organism will cause any adverse environmental effects.

I have determined that there would be no significant impact to the human environment from the implementation of the preferred alternative and, therefore, no Environmental Impact Statement needs to be prepared.

DAVID
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David S. Neitch, Director
Permitting and Compliance Coordination
Plant Protection and Quarantine
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Date