

Submission form: For Hazardous Substances and New Organisms applications

Submission details

What application are you submitting on?: APP204305 Application to introduce biological control agent for moth plant

Organisation or submitter name: Apiculture New Zealand

Contact person (for organisations only): Karin Kos, CEO

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Privacy statement

The EPA is collecting your personal information for the purpose of administering this application under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act and will use the information you provide in this form to contact you in relation to the application. We will store your personal information securely. Your submission and name will be made publicly available on our website, but your personal contact details will not be disclosed. You have the right to access the personal information we hold about you and to ask for it to be corrected if it is wrong. If you would like to access your personal information, or have it corrected, please contact us at info@epa.govt.nz.

Confidential details

The Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) applies to all information held by the EPA (subject to section 55 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996), and information may be released under the OIA unless there are grounds to withhold it. If you consider any part of your submission is confidential, please clearly label it as such and include the reasons why you think the information is confidential (eg, you may consider some information to be commercially sensitive). Further information on the OIA is at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Your submission

What is your view on what is proposed in the application form?

- I support the application
- I oppose the application
- I neither support or oppose the application

The reasons for making my submission are¹: *(further information can be supplied with your submission, see footnote).*

Moth plant is a common weed in the North Island of New Zealand and in the top of the South Island. It is a significant threat to biodiversity, conservation values and urban environments. Moth plant is a significant threat to the integrity of reserved land managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and local authorities. Spraying moth plant vines can result in unacceptable damage to underlying vegetation on land reserved for conservation.

ApiNZ understand that a previous application to release a rust fungus that inflicts the leaves of moth plants, while approved for release, has not been taken up due to import issues with Argentina. We also understand that a moth plant beetle, also approved for release, has not been able to be released, also due to issues gaining import permits from Argentina.

Laboratory testing undertaken by the applicants demonstrated that the agent can only feed and develop on plants belonging to Oxypetalinae, to which moth plant belongs.

I wish for the EPA to make the following decision:

ApiNZ think EPA should approve the application from Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research and Waikato Regional Council to release a seed-damaging fruit fly, *Anastrepha australis*, as a biological control agent for the invasive weed moth plant, *Araujia hortorum* (syn. of *Araujia sericifera*), in New Zealand.

¹ Further information can be supplied with your submission. If you are sending this submission electronically, please attach one or more files in any standard file format.

All submissions are taken into account by the decision makers. In addition, please indicate whether or not you also wish to speak at a hearing if one is held.



I wish to be heard in support of my submission (this means that you can present your submission to the DMC at the hearing but does not allow you to introduce new information at the hearing)

I do not wish to be heard in support of my submission (this means that you cannot speak at the hearing)

If neither box is ticked, it will be assumed you do not want to appear at a hearing.

Send your completed form

You can send us the completed form by either post or email.

Post	Email
 Environmental Protection Authority, Private Bag 63002, Wellington 6140	 submissions@epa.govt.nz