

A BIOLOGICAL CONTROL PROGRAM FOR COMMON TANSY (*TANACETUM VULGARE*) IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. Alec McClay¹, Monika Chandler², André Gassmann³, Vera Wolf⁴, John Gaskin⁵, ¹McClay Ecoscience, 15 Greenbriar Crescent, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada T8H 1H8 biocontrol@mcclay-ecoscience.com, ²Minnesota Dept of Agriculture, 601 Robert Street North, Saint Paul, MN 55155, USA 651-201-6468, Monika.Chandler@state.mn.us, ³CABI Europe - Switzerland, 1 Rue des Grillons, Delémont CH-2800, Switzerland a.gassmann@cabi.org, ⁴CABI and University of Bielefeld, Universitätsstraße 25, D-33615 Bielefeld, Germany v.wolf@cabi.org, ⁵USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, 1500 N. Central Ave. Sidney, MT 59270, USA JGaskin@sidney.ars.usda.gov

Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L., Asteraceae) is an aromatic herbaceous perennial native to Europe, which was introduced into North America as a culinary and medicinal herb. Now widely naturalized in pastures, roadsides, waste places, and riparian areas across Canada and the northern USA, tansy is also spreading in forested areas. It contains several compounds toxic to humans and livestock, such as α -thujone. Tansy reduces the productivity of pastures, displaces native vegetation in natural areas, and can be a problem in regeneration of logged areas. It is listed as a noxious weed in several states and provinces. Common tansy is a good target for biological control, as it is a perennial plant growing in stable habitats, and has few native North American congeners. A biological control program for common tansy is being funded and coordinated by a Canadian-US consortium led by the Alberta Invasive Plants Council and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. CABI Europe - Switzerland is identifying and testing potential agents for efficacy and host specificity, including the stem-mining weevil *Microplontus millefolii*, the leaf-feeding beetle *Cassida stigmatica*, the rhizome-mining moths *Isophrictis striatella* and *Dichrorampha* spp., and the root-feeding flea beetle *Longitarsus noricus*. Several of these species are now in culture at CABI, and preliminary host specificity testing is under way. A test plant list has been developed and is under review by the Canadian Biological Control Review Committee and the US Technical Advisory Group.