

Dalmatian toadflax, *Linaria dalmatica*, is a troublesome weed of grass- and shrub-lands in many parts of the western U.S., including much of Wyoming. In 1996, a stem-mining beetle from Europe was introduced to the U.S. for biological control of Dalmatian toadflax. In collaboration with U.S.D.A. A.P.H.I.S. and Wyoming Weed and Pest, I have been involved in release of the beetle, called *Mecinus janthinus*, at dozens of sites distributed across Wyoming. Impact of *M. janthinus* is apparent at a number of locations.

M. janthinus is originally from Europe. Adults feed on growing tips of toadflax shoots, reducing flowering and possibly the biomass of the plant. Larvae feed in the stems of toadflax shoots. After overwintering in the stems, adult beetles emerge in the spring from late-May to mid-June, depending on environmental conditions. The adults, black to dark-grey and about 1/4 an inch long, may be collected from toadflax stems by knocking individuals and mating pairs into paper cups (transport with foliage).



Dalmatian toadflax stem-mining weevil, *Mecinus janthinus*. Photo Credit: USDA ARS, courtesy of Rich Hansen