

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BRINGING INVERTEBRATES INTO OREGON

Joshua J. Vlach

Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97317
jvlach@oda.state.or.us

The introduction of exotic species is a side effect of our extensive international and domestic shipping and travel. Identifying pathways for the arrival of pests in Oregon is one of the keys to implementing plans and procedures to keep them out. One pathway is intentional introduction. The regulation of non-native organisms permitted entry into a state is an important tool, and there is a process for importing invertebrates into Oregon. In that vein, Oregon has had an *Approved Insect List (AIL)* for many years. It was permissible to import invertebrates on the list into Oregon; all others required inquiry. In spite of its name, the list includes terrestrial invertebrates including mites, spiders, scorpions, and even worms, crustaceans, snails, and slugs. Unfortunately, the list had no “teeth” and tools available for enforcement were extremely limited. In late 2011, the legislature authorized the Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt the *AIL* as an Oregon Administrative Rule (sections 603-052-1300 to 603-052-1370). This formalized the list of approved organisms and laid out requirements for importing organisms not included on the list. In addition, it authorized enforcement tools including destruction of the specimens and even allowed fines of up to \$10,000.

The current process for importing invertebrates to Oregon applies to all live terrestrial invertebrates whether they are for pets, research, biological control, or even human consumption, and it applies without regard to how the organism is being brought into the state or by whom. The USDA has their own permitting process for both inter-state and international movement of organisms. The USDA has primary authority for decisions for importation from international sources. The importer needs to apply to USDA APHIS for a permit. If USDA APHIS approves a request for importation, they will forward it to the ODA for further evaluation. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has the final say in domestic matters and can choose to exclude organisms that the USDA has permitted. Organisms on the *AIL* can be imported as desired without contacting Oregon officials. Two hundred and sixteen invertebrate taxa are listed. ODA requires the interested party to petition in writing for permission to import species not included on the *AIL*. If accepted, the species will be added to the list. Restrictions may apply.

See the *Approved Insect List* at:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/IPPM/Pages/appr_insects.aspx