

January 14, 2008

United States Department of Agriculture
Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8
4700 River Road Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238
Dear Sir / Madam:

Re: Docket APHIS-2007-0050.

I would like to request clarifying the report of *Ceratitits capitata* (Wiedemann) within the melon PRA draft from hawaii (*Cucumis melo* L.), titled: "Movement of Melon, *Cucumis melo* L., from Hawaii into the Continental United States", Docket APHIS-2007-0050.

The presence of Medflies has not been reported through interceptions from Hawaii. Moreover, after reviewing the Medhost database (Liquido *et al.*, 1991), although Melon appears within seven (7) bibliographical cites, in six (6) of these, the plant is listed but these do not include any field infestation(s). There is only one reference in which a laboratory infestation is exposed in cages to Medfly. In consulting other databases such as CAB *International*, 2006, and in documentation on Fruit Flies of Economic Significance: Their Identification and Bionomics (Elson-Harris, 1994) and Mediterranean Fruit Fly, *Ceratitits capitata* (Wiedemann)-Laboratory Infestations-(Thomas *et al.*, 2001), the statement is made with regards to the lack of knowledge on the significance that *Ceratitits capitata* may have upon Melon.

Thus, in our judgment, based upon a review of the scientific literature, the aforementioned reports are not very reliable to be included in the PRA draft for Melon from Hawaii.

Receive our cordial greetings.

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