



## *Inside Ag* *March 5, 2008*

### Bug of the Month Mecinus Janthinus



Dalmatian toadflax is a tall, thick-leaved perennial weed with attractive yellow flowers. It is a tough plant, difficult to control with chemicals, but fortunately a biological control agent has proven very effective against it.

The toadflax stem-mining weevil, *Mecinus janthinus*, spends its larval life boring through the thick stems of Dalmatian toadflax where it pupates and emerges as an adult, spending the winter inside of the dead stems.

In the late spring adults bore out of the dead stems, mate and lay eggs inside of new growing stems. During late spring and early summer the small black cylindrical adults can be collected for redistribution.

