

Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

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Pest report from NPPO of Germany

Responsible: Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Institute for National and International Plant Health

Report sent in 31st October 2014

Reason for reporting: First finding in Germany

Identity of the pest:	<i>Spodoptera littoralis</i>
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Categorization of the pest: listed in Annex IAll of the Directive 2000/29/EC

Host plants concerned: *Ipomoea batatas* 'Bright ideas'

Location: in Hesse

Short description:

- **Date of finding:** 23rd May 2014
- **General context of the pest report:** *Spodoptera littoralis* was found in 700 *Ipomoea batatas* plants in a nursery in Hesse. The plants were heavily infested. The pest was identified morphologically by the plant protection service and the diagnosis was confirmed by the Dutch plant protection service. It is suspected that the pest was introduced into the nursery with plants that were imported from a third country. The young *Ipomoea* plants have been imported and firstly had been grown by another German nursery but no *Spodoptera littoralis* has ever been found in this nursery that is officially inspected every second week. The *Ipomoea* plants originate in El Salvador. However, *Spodoptera littoralis* is not known to occur neither in El Salvador nor in any other country in America. Also other imported plants from third countries are grown in the nursery in Hesse. It is suspected that the pest may had been introduced with other imported plants from Africa.
- **Are official control measures being taken?** Yes, eradication measures were applied. The infested plants had been treated several times with insecticides and quarantine had been imposed. A survey has been carried out that included neighbouring nurseries.
- **References/Links:** -

- **Any additional information:** -

- **Pest status officially declared:** Absent, eradicated.

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