

### **Pest report from NPPO of Germany**

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

**Report sent in** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Reason for reporting:** First finding of a pest in Germany

<b>Identity of the pest:</b>	<i>Thekopsora minima</i>
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**Categorization of the pest:** not listed

**Host plants concerned:** *Vaccinium corymbosum* 'Pink Icing', 'Blue Crop'; 'Goldtraube', 'Reka', 'Cipria' and 'WE-97-1'

**Location:** in Lower-Saxony

#### **Short description:**

- **Date of finding:** June and November/December 2015
- **General context of the pest report:** Firstly, the rust fungus *Thekopsora minima* was found by a plant protection advisor in potted young plants of *Vaccinium corymbosum* 'Pink Icing'. The plants were grown in a greenhouse of a nursery in Lower-Saxony. The pest was identified morphologically and with DNA sequencing.  
In autumn, *T. minima* has been found by a private person on potted *V. corymbosum* 'Blue Crop' plants from a garden center in Hamburg. The person has brought the plants to the plant protection service in Lower-Saxony. The pathogen has also been found in *V. corymbosum* 'Goldtraube' potted plants that were bought in a garden center in Lower-Saxony. Symptoms of rust fungus could also be found in remaining plants of that garden center. The plants from the above mentioned garden center originate in a nursery in Lower-Saxony where the disease has been detected from the variety 'Goldtraube'. The plants from the above mentioned nursery originate in another nursery in Lower-Saxony where the disease has also been detected from the varieties 'Goldtraube', 'Reka', 'Cipria' and 'WE-97-1'.  
Trace-back and forward investigations are ongoing. It is suspected that the pathogen might have been introduced with young plants from the USA.
- **Are official control measures being taken?** Yes, preliminary measures are imposed to prevent further spread of the harmful organism. Some plants have been destroyed and quarantine has been imposed. Further inspections are planned to find out about the situation and finally decide on the objective of official measures.

- **References/Links:** The Express-PRA is available on the JKI website  
[http://pflanzengesundheit.jki.bund.de/dokumente/upload/fee0d\\_thekopsora-minima\\_express-pra.pdf](http://pflanzengesundheit.jki.bund.de/dokumente/upload/fee0d_thekopsora-minima_express-pra.pdf)

**Any additional information:**

A preliminary pest risk analysis exists: Express-PRA (in German): The phytosanitary risk has been classified as high for Germany and for the EU Member States with medium certainty of assessment.

The fungus originates in North America and Japan. Presumably in 2002, *T. minima* was found for the first time in the EU in Spain and published as the native *Pucciniastrum vaccinii*. Until now, *T. minima* is neither listed in the Annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC nor by EPPO. The host plants are *Vaccinium corymbosum*, *Rhododendron* and Azalea, several *Ericaceae* and two *Tsuga* species (alternate hosts). Damages on the host plants might be severe. Establishment of the fungus in Europe might be possible considering the climatic requirements of the fungus and the conditions in the EU.

**Pest status officially declared:** Transient, actionable, under eradication.  
(Rating not based on monitoring)

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