

Pest report from NPPO of Germany

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

Report sent in 19th July 2012

Reason for reporting: First finding in Germany

Identity of the pest:	<i>Candidatus Arsenophorus phytopathogenicus</i> (Syndrome Basse richesses)
------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Categorization of the pest: -

Host plants concerned: *Beta vulgaris ssp. Vulgaris 'Altissima'*

Location: one region in Baden-Wuerttemberg.

Short description:

- **Date of finding:** Autumn 2008 – Winter 2009
- **General context of the pest report:** In autumn 2008 single *Beta vulgaris* plants in the area showed symptoms like yellow leaves, narrowed young leaves, reduced growth and a necrotic vascular system in the beetroot. After identification of the pathogen in 2009 with a nested PCR method in winter 2010 no symptoms were observed in the concerned area. But the syndrome basse richesses was found again in autumn 2011 on several fields. Single plants in an area of approximately 0.2 to 0.5 ha were affected.
- The pathogen is transmitted via the vector *Pentastiridius leporinus* (Cixiidae) that feeds on winter-wheat, too. It is presumed that the disease has spread naturally with this vector. It is known that the pest occurs in France near the German border.
- **Are official control measures being taken?** Yes, a survey was conducted in the area which included the vector *Pentastiridius leporinus*. The beets were destroyed by processing.
- **References/Links:** Bressan, A. (2012): Independent origins of vectored plant pathogenic bacteria from arthropod-associated *Arsenophorus endosymbionts*. *Microbial Ecology*, 63(3), 628-638.
- **Any additional information:** A PRA is being conducted but not finished yet. It will be transmitted as soon as it is available and translated in English.

Pest status officially declared: present, only in one area (Baden-Wuerttemberg)

Contact person: Ms Katrin Kaminski (Katrin.kaminski@jki.bund.de)