Express – PRA for *Blaps nitens brachyura* – Notification –

Prepared by: Julius Kuehn-Institute, Institute for National and International Plant Health; Dr. Peter Baufeld, Dr. Anne Wilstermann; on: 07-05-2018; (translated by Elke Vogt-Arndt)

Initiation: Notification of potatoes from Egypt by the plant protection service Bremen

Express-PRA	***Blaps nitens brachyura***		
Phytosanitary risk for Germany	**high** ☐	**medium** ☐	**low** ☒
Phytosanitary risk for EU-Member States	**high** ☐	**medium** ☐	**low** ☒
Certainty of assessment	**high** ☒	**medium** ☐	**low** ☐
Conclusion	The beetle *Blaps nitens brachyura* is endemic in Spain and does not occur in Germany. So far, it is listed neither in the Annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC nor by EPPO. *B. nitens brachyura* feeds on dead organic material (saprophyte). There are no indications that the beetle is phytophagous. Thus, it is not a plant pest. It is assumed that *B. nitens brachyura* is not able to establish outdoors in Germany due to unsuitable climatic conditions. The species *B. nitens* is present in Northern Africa at the Atlantic coast (Essaouiro, Qualidia) and in the Mediterranean area. The sub-species *B. nitens brachyura* is present in Spain. *B. nitens brachyura* does not present a phytosanitary risk for Germany and other EU-Member States. There are no indications for damage caused by this species. Based on this pest risk analysis *B. nitens brachyura* is not classified as a quarantine pest. Thus, § 4a of the Plant Inspection Order does not apply.		
Preconditions for an Express-PRA fulfilled?	Yes, the beetle could be a pest. *B. nitens brachyura* is not listed and so far, has not been found in the area covered by the reporting plant protection service.		
Taxonomy, trivial name, synonyms	Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae (darkling beetle), Blaptini, *Blaps nitens* Laporte de Castelnau, 1840, *Blaps nitens* ssp. *brachyura* Küster, 1848 (Torres 2011)		
Does a relevant earlier PRA exist?	No		
Distribution and biology	The species *B. nitens* is present in Northern Africa at the Atlantic coast (Essaouiro, Qualidia) and in the Mediterranean region (Tamadouni and Arahou 2017) and the sub-species *B.*		

Express-PRA	***Blaps nitens brachyura***
	nitens brachyura is present in Spain; there are many sub-species of the species (Soldati et al. 2017, 2009)
Are host plants present in the PRA area? If so, which?	The species is saprophagous (Tamadouni und Arahou 2017). There are no indications that it is phytophagous. The beetle is not a plant pest.
Transfer pest **Consignment →host plant**	Not relevant. Presumably, the individual beetle (see fig. 1 and 2) entered the container by hazard. The sub-species is present in Spain (Soldati et al. 2017, Torres 2011) and in Egypt (Tamadouni and Arahou 2017).
Is a vector / further plant needed for host alternation? Which? Distribution?	No.
Climate in distribution area comparable to PRA area?	The species *B. nitens* (Tamadouni und Arahou 2017) and the sub-species *B. nitens brachyura* (Soldati et al. 2017, 2009) are thermophile.
If no, are host plants present in protected cultivation?	Not relevant.
Damage to be expected in the PRA area?	No.
Is an infestation easy to eradicate?	Eradication is not relevant as there is no phytosanitary risk. There was only one beetle in a container with Egyptian early potatoes. A treatment or a destruction of the potatoes is not necessary.
Remarks	------
Literature	Soldati, L., Condomine, F. L., Clamens, A.-L., Kergoat, G. J. (2017) Documenting tenebrionid: progression Blaps Fabritius (Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Tenebrioninae, Blaptini) systematics, with the description of five new species. European Journal of Taxonomy 282, 1-29. http://www.europeanjournaloftaxonomy.eu/index.php/ejt/article/viewFile/406/857 (accessed on 04-05-2018) Soldati, L., Kergoat, G. J., Condamine, F. L. (2009) Important notes on taxonomic structure of *Blaps nitens* Laporte de Castelnau, 1840 with the description of new subspecies *Blaps nitens medvedevi* subsp. n. (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Blaptini). Caucasian Entomological Bulletin 5, 231-233.

Express-PRA	*Blaps nitens brachyura*
	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/224904097_Important_notes_on_taxonomic_structure_of_Blaps_nitens_Laporte_de_Castelnau_1840_with_the_description_of_new_subspecies_Blaps_nitens_medvedevi_subsp_n_Coleoptera_Tenebrionidae_Blaptini (accessed on 04-05-2018) Tamadouni, J., Arahou, M. (2017) Settlement of Beetles of the Wetland of Sidi Moussa-Qualidia. Journal of Entomology 14 (1), 33-43. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/312932788_Settlement_of_Beetles_of_the_Wetland_of_Sidi_Moussa-Oualidia (accessed on 04-05-2018) Torres, J. (2011) Invertebrados Insectariumvirtual. http://www.biodiversidadvirtual.org/insectarium/Blaps-nitens-ssp.-brachyura-Kuster-1848-img279022.html (accessed on 04-05-2018)

Fig. 1: *Blaps nitens brachyuran;* length app. 3 cm (Source: Astrid Freers, Plant Protection Service Bremen, 2018)

Fig. 2: Adult beetle of *Blaps nitens brachyura* (lateral view) (Source: Astrid Freers, Plant Protection Service Bremen, 2018)