Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit
Institute for National and International Plant Health

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Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

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20-07-2020

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism

1 General information	
1.1 Title	First finding of *Peronospora aquilegiicola* in Germany (Lower-Saxony)
1.2 Executive summary	In Spring 2020, a private garden owner submitted a plant sample of diseased *Aquilegia* sp. to the plant protection service of Lower Saxony. The private person has observed heavy symptoms of downy mildew on *Aquelegia* sp. in 2019 that recurred in 2020. The species was identified via morphological and molecular methods. About 400 plants were affected on an area of 200 square meters. The plants showed varying degrees of symptoms from chlorotic necrosis and slight twisted growth to the death of whole plants. A preliminary PRA was performed, which concluded that *P. aquilegiicola* may fulfill the criteria of a quarantine pest. Officially measures were taken to eradicate the pest. As the plants were not planted in the garden by the owner but have settled wild, therefore the source of the outbreak is unknown.
2 Information concerning the single authority and responsible persons.	
2.1 Notification from	Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI), Institute for National and International Plant Health, Germany
2.2 Official contact:	Katrin Kaminski, Tel: +49(0)531 299 3378, outbreaks@julius-kuehn.de
3 Location	
3.1 Location	In Lower-Saxony
4 Reason of the notification and the pest status	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	First confirmed presence of the harmful organism in the territory of Germany

4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Present, in specific parts of the area where host plants are grown, under eradication
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Absent, no pest records
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present, under eradication
5 Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism.	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Information submitted by private person: The infestation was observed by a private person in 2019 and again in 2020. Due to the recurrence of the disease, a sample was submitted by the private person.
5.2 Date of finding:	05-05-2020
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	05-05-2020
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landwirtschaftskammer Niedersachsen Pflanzenschutzamt, Stelle Oldenburg Wunstorfer Landstr. 9 30453 Hannover Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	Microscopically examination of conidia and morphological classification as *Peronospora* sp. *P. aquilegiicola* is currently the only known downy mildew on *Aguilegia* sp. The identity of the pathogen was confirmed on 4 June 2020 by molecular methods.
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	05-05-2020

6 Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area.	
6.1 Size and delimitation of the infested area.	200 m², 400 plants
6.2 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open-air: private garden
6.3 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	
6.4 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Aquilegia* (plants already planted, not to be reproduced or moved, wild Aquilegia not planted or sown by the owner of the garden)
6.5 Severity of the outbreak.	The plants showed varying degrees of symptoms from chlorotic necrosis and slight twisted growth to the death of the whole plant.
6.6 Source of the outbreak	Unknown. The plants were neither planted nor sown by the garden owner.
7 Official phytosanitary measures.	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures will be taken: no demarcated area established: - destruction of all *Aquilegia* plants in the garden - removing of young plants - no planting of host plants within the next five years - disposal of infested material by burning of deep burial.
7.2 Date of adoption of the official phytosanitary measures.	12-05-2020
7.3 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	-
7.4 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.5 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods
7.6 Specific surveys.	no

8 Pest risk analysis/assessment	Preliminary pest risk analysis exists (Express-PRA): The Oomycet *Peronospora aquilegiicola*, which is presumably native to East Asia, has not yet been detected in Germany. The Oomycet has not yet been detected in other EU Member States, but in the UK. *Peronospora aquilegiicola* infests *Aquilegia* sp. and probably *Semiaquilegia* sp. Systemic infections result in stunted growth with smaller plants with smaller, often rolled up leaves. The death of the plants may occur within one or after two growing seasons. It is currently assumed that *P. aquilegiicola* can establish in Germany and the EU in the open field and under protected conditions wherever host plants are available. Because of its high potential for damage to cultivated and wild columbines, *P. aquilegiicola* poses a medium phytosanitary risk to Germany and other EU Member States. Based on this risk analysis, it is assumed that the pest may establish in Germany or other Member States and cause significant damage. Measures should therefore be taken to avert the risk posed by this potential quarantine pest in accordance with Article 29 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. The Express-PRA (in German language) is available at: https://pflanzengesundheit.julius-kuehn.de/dokumente/upload/Peronospora-aquilegiicola_Exp-PRA.pdf