Express-PRA for *Eldana saccharina* – Interception –

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Initiation: *Suspected infestation of a consignment of* Cassia fistula *(seed pulp) from Indonesia, notified by the Plant Protection Service Berlin*

Initiation for the revision: *re-assessment of the known host plants and distribution*

Express-PRA	***Eldana saccharina* Walker, 1865**		
Phytosanitary risk for Germany	**high** ☐	**medium** ☐	**low** ☒
Phytosanitary risk for EU-Member States	**high** ☐	**medium** ☐	**low** ☒
Certainty of assessment	**high** ☒	**medium** ☐	**low** ☐
Conclusion	*Eldana saccharina* is endemic to sub-Saharan Africa and Saudi Arabia and so far, it does not occur in Germany/the EU. So far, it is listed neither in the Annexes of the Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 nor by EPPO. *Eldana saccharina* infests maize, rice, *Sorghum bicolor* and sugarcane. Due to inappropriate climate conditions, it is not assumed that *Eldana saccharina* can establish outdoors in Germany. The establishment in South European EU-Member States is not expected either. Due to its very low damage potential for the EU, the pest does not pose any phytosanitary risk for Germany and other EU-Member States. Based on this risk analysis, it is assumed that the pest cannot establish in Germany or another Member State and hence, cannot cause any damage. Thus, the pest is not classified as a quarantine pest and Article 29 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 does not apply.		
Pre-conditions for Express-PRA fulfilled?	Yes. First introduction to EU.		
Taxonomy, common name, synonyms	Order: Lepidoptera; Class Pyralidae; Genus: *Eldana*; Species: *Eldana saccharina* Walker, 1865 Synonyms: *Eldana conipyga* Strand, 1912 Zuckerrohrstängelbohrer, African sugarcane borer		
Does a relevant earlier PRA exist?	No		

Express-PRA	*Eldana saccharina* Walker, 1865
Distribution and biology	*Eldana saccharina* is distributed in Africa, south of the Sahara and furthermore, is present in Saudi Arabia. The eggs are laid in groups into the leaf sheath or folded dead leaves. One female lays up to 300 eggs. Since females prefer dead leaves for the oviposition, mostly well-developed host plants are infested. The larvae emerge after approx. 6 days and initially, they feed on the outer layer of the host plant. Subsequently, they bore their galleries in the stem. The development of the larvae may last up to 2 months. The pupation takes place in silk cocoons within the stems of the host plants or behind the leaf sheath (CABI, 2019).
Are host plants present in the PRA-area? If so, which?	Known host plants are sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), sweet sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*) (EPPO GD, 2020) and grasses like papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*), Guinea grass (*Panicum maximum*), itch-grass (*Rottboellia cochinchinensis*) (NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, oD). Maize, rice and sweet sorghum also are present in Germany resp. the EU.
Transfer Pest Consignment→Host plant	The movement of the larvae via the host plants is possible. The mature butterflies are able to fly.
Is a vector/ further plant needed for host alternation? Which one? Distribution?	No.
Climate in distribution area comparable to PRA-area?	*Eldana saccarina* is a tropical/sub-tropical species and the establishment in Germany and the EU seems unlikely.
If no, are host plants present in protected cultivation?	No, the aforementioned host plants all are field crops.
Damage to be expected in the PRA-area?	No.
Is an infestation easy to eradicate?	There is no information to this because the establishment is not possible.
Remarks	*There has been no previous evidence of Eldana saccharina occurring in Indonesia. Furthermore,* Cassia fistula *is not known as a host plant for that species. The molecular identification of the larvae in the intercepted consignment revealed a close relationship, but no match with the gene sequences stored for* E. saccharina.

Express-PRA	*Eldana saccharina* Walker, 1865
Literature	BIONET-EAFRINET, Keys and Fact Sheets, 2020: *Eldana saccharina* Walker, 1865 – African Sugarcane Stalkborer. https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/eafrinet/maize_pests/key/maize_pests/Media/Html/Eldana_saccharina_Walker_1865_-_African_Sugarcane_Stalkborer.htm [08-10-2020] CABI, 2019: *Eldana saccharina* (African sugarcane borer). CABI Crop Protection Compendium. (last update 22-11-2019) https://www.cabi.org/cpc/datasheet/20672 EPPO GLOBAL DATABASE, 2020: *Eldana sacccharina* (ELDASA). https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ELDASA [08-10-2020] LEPIFORUM, 2020: Bestimmungshilfe für die in Europa nachgewiesenen Schmetterlingsarten. http://www.lepiforum.de/lepiwiki.pl?Familien_Alphabetisch [08-10-2020] NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, o.D: HOSTS – a Database of the World`s Lepidopteran Hostplants. The Natural History Museum, London. https://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/data/hostplants/