Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

JKI, Messeweg 11/12 , 38104 Braunschweig, Germany

Julius Kühn-Institut
Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen

Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants

www.julius-kuehn.de

23-11-2021

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Confirmed presence of *Elachiptera decipiens* in Germany (Brandenburg)
1.2 Executive summary	Three pupae of *Elachiptera decipiens* have been found in a maize field in Brandenburg. The brown pupae were detected in one maize stem. It is presumed that the pest has entered the stem via exit holes of the maize borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*). The pest was identified by DNA-sequencing. The concerned field has been harvested. This is the second finding of *E. decipiens* in Brandenburg in 2021. The two findings are in a distance of about 18 km from each other at different farms and both locations are about 110 km from the first finding in 2015, which is considered eradicated. No significant damage of the maize could be observed. *Elachiptera decipiens* seems to use the exit holes of *Ostrinia nubilalis* for oviposition. All pupae were found in such places.
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 Brandenburg
4 Reason of the notification and the pest status	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	Confirmed appearance of the pest in part of the territory of Germany, in which it has been present but eradicated.

	In 2015, pupae of *Elachiptera decipiens* were found on one *Zea mays* plant. The pest was not found any more at this location in the following years so that the outbreak had been eradicated in 2021. The new outbreak is about 120 km away from the old location.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Other: Status under determination
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Absent: pest eradicated
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Other: Status under determination
5 **Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism**	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Phytosanitary inspection of any type.
5.2 Date of finding:	01-11-2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	09-09-2021 Brown fly pupae, appr. 5 mm, were found in the stem of a maize plant. A sample was taken for laboratory investigation.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landesamt für Ländliche Entwicklung, Landwirtschaft und Flurneuordnung (LELF) Referat 43 Saatenanerkennung, Phytopathologie Steinplatz 1 15806 Zossen Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	PM 7/129 (2) DNA barcoding as an identification tool for a number of regulated pests, EPPO Bulletin (2021) 51 (1)
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	01-11-2021
6 **Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area**	
6.1 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Open air – production area: field (arable, pasture) Plant already planted, not to be reproduced or moved.

6.2 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	*Zea mays* (600,000 m²) The field concerned has meanwhile been harvested.
6.3 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Zea mays* (1 pce)
6.4 Severity of the outbreak	Infestation was only found in 1 out of 50 plants that were investigated. Since the area is harvested, it is difficult to estimate the actual severity of infestation. However, no significant damage was observed or reported.
6.5 Source of the outbreak	The source of the infestation is not known yet. The plant protection service thinks there is no connection between the current finding and the occurrence in 2015 or the other finding from 2021 but this could not yet be confirmed.
7 **Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Decision on whether official phytosanitary measures will be taken is pending. The plant protection service will carry out a survey in 2022 to find out the spread of the pest.
7.2 Size and delimitation of demarcated area and/or buffer zone.	No area was demarcated because of the low damage. Further measures are dependent on the result of the pest risk assessment (Express-PRA) update.
7.3 Specific surveys.	Yes, in the following days, surveys will be carried out in the concerned field (as far as plants are still present), on wild grasses in the vicinity and in any maize fields that may still be existing in the surrounding.

8	**Pest risk analysis/assessment**	Preliminary pest risk assessment exists (dated 2015): *Elachiptera decipiens* originates in North America. This fly species is not listed in the EU Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It attacks prairie grasses and has been found for the first time in Germany on maize. Establishment in Germany in the open is very likely. Possible damage to grasses was difficult to assess, as there were no indications. However, the infection on maize indicates a possible damage potential. On the basis of this risk analysis there is reason to believe that *Elachiptera decipiens* may establish in Germany or other Member States and cause damage. The pest is therefore considered relevant for Art. 29 of the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. It was recommended to carry out intensive monitoring of this potential quarantine pest in the infested area and to record possible damage.