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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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism – closing note

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Eradication of an outbreak of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae* in Germany (Baden-Wuerttemberg)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2021, *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae* was found in a nursery that produces Poinsettia. Approximately 75 of 5500 *Euphorbia pulcherrima* plants showed symptoms of bacterial infection (necrotic leaf areas). *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae* was detected in a sample from symptomatic leaves. There is no indication that the symptoms increased with the time. All in all the bacteria seems not to be very virulent. No official phytosanitary measures will be taken in Baden-Wuerttemberg. The symptomatic plants were destroyed on a voluntary basis by the grower. **<u>Update 2023:</u> Trace-back investigations are finished. The young plants originate in Ethiopia. However, no information can be found that *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *poinsettiae* is present in Africa. Therefore, the source of the infestation remains unknown. The Express-PRA is currently under revision because of the low PeMoScoring (Tool for the evaluation of plant pests) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and mild symptoms observed in this outbreak.** **The pest is considered eradicated by the destruction measures taken by the operator.**
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 39 46 47 7515, outbreaks@julius-kuehn.de
3 **Location**	
3.1 Location	In Baden-Wuerttemberg
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 Germany, in which it has been previously present but eradicated.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	**Absent: pest eradicated**
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Transient: actionable, under eradication
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	**Absent: pest eradicated**
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:	19-08-2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	19-08-2021
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landwirtschaftliches Technologiezentrum Augustenberg (LTZ) – Referat 33 Neßlerstraße 25 76227 Karlsruhe Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	Isolation of bacteria from symptomatic plant material (leaves); sequencing of 16S rRNA
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	10-09-2021
6 **Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area**	
6.1 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Physically closed conditions: greenhouse Plant to be (re) planted or reproduced
6.2 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity	*Euphorbia pulcherrima*

6.3 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Euphorbia pulcherrima* (75 pce)
6.4 Severity of the outbreak.	Approximately 75 of 5500 plants showed symptoms of bacterial infection (necrotic leaf areas). There is no indication that the symptoms increased with the time. All in all the bacterium does not seem to be very virulent.
6.5 Source of the outbreak	The source of the infestation is not known so far. The young plants that were delivered from a nursery in another federal Land in Germany. The nursery of the young plants is regularly inspected by the plant protection service and all tests for bacterial diseases were negative so far. **Update 2023: Trace-back investigations are finished. The young plants originate in Ethiopia. However, since there is no indication that the pathogen is present in Africa, the source of the infestation remains unknown.**
7 **Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	No official phytosanitary measures have been taken. The bacterium does not seem to be very virulent. The plant protection service in Baden-Wuerttemberg decided that no official phytosanitary measures will be taken and leaves it up to the grower to take plant protection measures himself. The symptomatic plants were destroyed on a voluntary basis by the grower. **Update 2023: The plant protection service did not take any official measures because only very few damages were observed and meanwhile the phytosanitary risk was classified as lower. In addition, the pest is considered eradicated because of the voluntary measures taken by the operator.**
7.2 Specific surveys.	No
8 **Pest risk analysis/assessment**	In 2014, the pathogen was found in Germany for the first time and the phytosanitary risk was assessed in an Express-PRA. In 2016 and 2018, there were isolated outbreaks in Poinsettia production in greenhouses that were eradicated. Currently, the Express-PRA is revised.