Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

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Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (1646) – update

1 **General information**	
1.1 Title	Update of a finding of *Popillia japonica* in Germany (Freiburg, Baden-Wuerttemberg)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2021, a single male beetle was caught at the end of the survey season in a trap close to a railroad line in Baden-Wuerttemberg, which runs in north-south direction. There is currently no indication for an established population at this location. The *Popillia japonica* beetle is presumed to have come from outbreak areas in other Member States by train as a hitchhiker. Therefore, no demarcated area has been established. An intensified survey was carried out in 2021. In 2022, 6 additional traps were installed in a diameter of 1 km around the first finding in 2021. In July 2022, a single male beetle of *Popillia japonica* was caught in a trap of the plant protection service Baden-Württemberg close to a train terminal in Baden-Wuerttemberg, where the trucks arrive via train right from Novara (Italy). The finding was officially confirmed based on a diagnosis of the official laboratory in Baden-Wuerttemberg. It is presumed that also the second male beetle arrived as a hitchhiker. No demarcated area has been established. Intensified surveys and additional public awareness raising activities were carried out. In July 2023, one male *Popillia japonica* beetle was caught in a trap of the plant protection service close to a train terminal in Baden-Wuerttemberg where the trucks arrive via train right from Novara (Italy). The finding was officially confirmed based on diagnosis by the official laboratory in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Since 2022, 7 pheromone traps were installed in a diameter of 1 km around the findings in 2021 and 2022. The traps are inspected weekly. No further Japanese Beetle was caught until July 2023 at this location. Therefore, the regional plant protection service presumes the *Popillia japonica* beetle to be a train

	hitchhiker from outbreak areas in Northern Italy, too. There was no indication for an established population at this location and no demarcated area has been established. An intensified survey is carried out in the surroundings of 1.5 km around the finding. Public awareness activities were carried out by a press release informing about the finding. Update September 2023: In September 2023, one single male beetle was caught in a trap in the same area approximately 400 m away from the other finding at the train terminal. **Update July 2024: In July 2024, 4 male beetles were caught at the same time in a trap in the same area as the year before. The trap was placed directly at the terminal where the trucks arrive via train from Italy. No beetles were caught in the other 7 traps in the area, which were checked twice since 25th July without any finding of beetles. 4 more traps were placed at risk locations like irrigated lawns (e.g. airport, football stadium and park) in a 500 m radius around the 1 km zone of the finding and a survey is carried out. More traps will probably be set up next week.**
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
3 **Location**	
3.1 Location	Freiburg in Baden-Wuerttemberg
4 **Reason of the notification and the pest status**	
4.1 First finding in Germany or in the area	First confirmed presence of the pest in Germany.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Absent: no established population
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Absent: pest records unreliable
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Absent: intercepted only

5 **Finding, sampling, testing and confirmation of the harmful organism**	
5.1 How the presence or appearance of the harmful organism was found.	Pest related official survey. The second finding was due to the survey related to the first finding of the pest at this location in July 2022. A male specimen of *Popillia japonica* was found in the trap. The third specimen was found in the continued survey related to the finding of the pest at this location 2021 and 2022. A male specimen of *Popillia japonica* was found in the trap. The date of trap inspection was 21st July 2023. All three findings were in traps located at the same place in a distance of about 800 m. Update September 2023: On 14th September, a single male beetle of *Popillia japonica* was trapped at the same place as the other catches. The trap was positioned about 400 m away from the finding in July 2023. There is still no indication for an established population. **Update July 2024: On 25th July 2024, 4 male beetles of *Popillia japonica* were trapped at the same time in a trap. The trap was positioned at the same place as the finding in 2022.**
5.2 Date of finding:	12-11-2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	12-11-2021 The beetle was caught between 14th September and 12th November 2021 and was found during the inspection of the trap. The second male beetle was found in a pheromone trap on 20th July 2022.The third male beetle was found in a pheromone trap on 21st July 2023. Update September 2023: The fourth male beetle was found in a pheromone trap on 15th September 2023. **Update July 2024: On 25th July 2024, the fifth to eighth beetles were found in one pheromone trap.**
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Landwirtschaftliches Technologiezentrum Augustenberg (LTZ) – Referat 33 Neßlerstraße 25 76227 Karlsruhe Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols PM 7/74 (1) – *Popillia japonica* and morphological identification
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the pest.	17-11-2021

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 – other: public sites
6.2 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	Object: trap The plant protection service placed the trap next to the railroad line.
6.3 Severity of the outbreak.	One specimen caught in a trap close to a railroad line. There is currently no indication for an established population. In July 2023, again only one male beetle was caught in a trap close to a railroad line. There is currently no indication for an established population. <u>Update September 2023:</u> A single male beetle was caught in a trap close to the railway line. There is still no indication for an established population. **<u>Update July 2024:</u> In July 2024, 4 male beetles were trapped at the same time in one trap close to the railway terminal. There is still no indication for an established population, the other 7 traps in the surrounding had no catches.**
6.4 Source of the outbreak	The beetles are presumed to have come from outbreak areas in Northern Italy by train as hitchhikers.
7 **Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	No official phytosanitary measures have been taken and no demarcated area was established. The plant protection service presumes that both beetles have been introduced with means of transportation from outbreak areas in the south. The second beetle was caught in the same area as the first beetle. Pheromone traps were placed at this location because it is a frequented traffic route. The inspection took place at a terminal of a railway company, where the trucks are leaving the train from Novara (Italy). An intensified survey including traps and visual inspections was carried out until the end of September 2022. The traps were inspected at least every two weeks. The intensified survey will be continued in the season 2023. Regarding the finding in July 2023 the plant protection service presumes that also the third beetle has been introduced with means of transportation from outbreak areas in the south. The third beetle was caught in the same area as the years before. Pheromone traps were placed at this location because it is

	a frequented traffic route. The inspection took place at a terminal of a railway company where the trucks are leaving the train from Novara (Italy). Update September 2023: Due to the fact that there are many traps located around the freight station and there were only individual findings of beetles the plant protection service still assumes that the beetles arrived as hitchhikers. **Update July 2024: Due to the fact that there are many traps located around the freight station and there were only individual findings of beetles the plant protection service still assumes that the beetles arrived as hitchhikers. More traps are set in the surroundings at risk locations e.g. irrigated greens.**
7.2 Specific surveys.	Yes, the survey was intensified until September 2022 and in 2023. **In 2024, 4 more traps were located at risk locations in the surroundings.**
8 **Pest risk analysis/assessment**	Pest risk analysis is not required (harmful organism is listed in Annex II B of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.