

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 (3128) – update

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Update on a finding of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Hesse)
1.2 Executive summary	In July 2025, an individual <i>Popillia japonica</i> beetle was found in a private garden in Hesse. The private person reported the suspected finding to the regional plant protection service who took the beetle for further identification. A male <i>Popillia japonica</i> was identified by the official laboratory of Hesse and the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). On 22nd July, the delimiting survey was started according to the emergency plan and two days later the traps were installed in the survey area of 2 km radius. Intensive inspections were carried out since then and no further <i>P. japonica</i> could be found so far. The beetle is currently suspected to be a hitchhiker brought back in a private vehicle by tourists from Italy. The survey is ongoing. <u>Update August 2025:</u> Meanwhile, 4 more beetles have been found and morphologically identified as male <i>Popillia japonica</i>. 2 of them have been found in a trap 470 m north of the first finding, one in a trap 400 m west of the first finding and 1 in a trap at the initial finding. Surveys are ongoing and phytosanitary measures are taken. The demarcated area (infestation zone and buffer zone) has been established around the points of findings. The general decree is in draft status and is expected to be published as soon as possible. <u>Update October 2025:</u> 1 more beetle was found in a trap and 1 more beetle was reported by a private person in the infested zone. The beetles were identified morphologically by the official laboratory in Hesse. In total, 7 beetles were detected so far in the demarcated area.

	Update June 2026: 5 additional beetles were found in the trap located in the private garden within the infested area where the first specimen was found in 2025. The beetles were identified morphologically by the official laboratory in Hesse. All beetles are males. In total, 12 beetles were detected so far in the demarcated area.
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	in Hesse
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 its presence was previously unknown.
4.2 Pest status of the area where the harmful organism has been found present, after the official confirmation.	Present: at low prevalence, only in specific parts of the area concerned, under eradication
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: at low prevalence, only in specific parts of Germany, under eradication
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: at low prevalence, only in specific parts of Germany, 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 professional operators, laboratories or other persons. The beetle was reported by private garden owners who caught the beetle in their garden. <u>Update August 2025:</u> 4 more beetles have been found and morphologically identified as male <i>Popillia japonica</i>. 2 of them have been found in a trap 470 m north of the first finding, one in a trap 400 m west of the first finding and 1 in a trap at the initial finding.

	<u>Update October 2025:</u> 1 more beetle was found in a trap and 1 more beetle was reported by a private person. <u>Update June 2026:</u> 5 more beetles have been found in the trap in the private garden, where the first beetle was found in 2025.
5.2 Date of finding:	18-07-2025
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 21-07-2025
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Regierungspräsidium Gießen – Pflanzenschutzdienst Schanzenfeldstraße 8 35578 Wetzlar Germany Julius Kühn-Institut – Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit Messeweg 11-12 38104 Braunschweig Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols PM 7/74 (1) - <i>Popillia japonica</i>
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	30-07-2025
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: private garden Object: trap
6.2 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	2 pce 1 male beetle was found in the private garden. The private garden is huge and many big shrubs and trees grow there including preferred species of <i>Popillia</i> like hazel and roses. <u>Update October 2025:</u> 1 more beetle was found by a private person. Object: trap (10 pce) <u>Update August 2025:</u> 4 beetles have been found in 3 traps. 2 of them have been found in a trap 470 m north of the first finding, one in a trap 400 m west of the first finding and 1 in a trap at the initial finding. <u>Update October 2025:</u> 1 more beetle was found in a trap.

	<u>Update June 2026:</u> 5 additional beetles were found in the trap located in the private garden within the infested area where the first specimen was found in 2025.
6.3 Severity of the outbreak.	Only 1 beetle was found so far and there are no further signs of an infestation like typical feeding marks etc. <u>Update August 2025:</u> 4 more beetles have been found in 3 traps. At present, a small population cannot be ruled out.
6.4 Source of the outbreak	The source of the beetle could not be found yet. However, it is suspected that the beetle was introduced as a hitchhiker by neighbours who returned from holidays in northern Italy on 30 th June 2025.
7 Official phytosanitary measures	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Official phytosanitary measures have been taken. Those measures are taken inside the demarcated area. - trapping according to the emergency plan, visual checks, intensive monitoring - press and TV information for the public <u>Update October 2025:</u> The general decree was published on 25th August 2025.
7.2 Identification of the area covered by the official phytosanitary measures.	113,097,335 m² The infestation is in a limited area. A demarcated area with an infestation zone of 1 km radius and a buffer zone of 5 km around each finding was established.
7.3 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures do not affect import into or movement within the Union of goods
7.4 Specific surveys.	Yes
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.