

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (2802) – update

Title:
Update on a finding of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Bavaria)
Executive summary:
In August 2024, a dead male beetle of <i>Popillia japonica</i> was found in a trap in Bavaria, 200 m from the Austrian border. The beetle was caught in a pheromone trap installed during the national survey in Germany. The trap is located near the motorway A93, which is an important transit route. Therefore, it is presumed that the beetle arrived as a hitchhiker from Italy or Switzerland to Germany. No indication of an established population could be found so far. Further traps were installed in a radius of 1000 m around the trap and visual surveys were intensified in the region. <u>Update September 2024:</u> One week later, another male beetle was found in one of the additional traps about 900 m away from the first finding. There is still no indication for an established population. <u>Update July 2025:</u> 1 more male beetle was caught in the trap at the motorway rest area, in which already in 2024, a beetle was found. There is still no indication for an established population. <u>Update October 2025:</u> One more male beetle was caught in a trap about 200 m away from the first finding in 2025 at the motorway rest area. In 2025, 2 beetles were caught. They are both considered to be further hitchhikers. There is still no indication for an established population. <u>Update July 2026:</u> 1 more male beetle was caught in the trap at the motorway rest area, in which already 2024 and 2025 a beetle was caught. In total, 5 beetles were caught since 2024. There is still no indication for an established population. It is presumed that all these beetles were hitchhikers. Intensive visual examinations are ongoing in the area.
Pest status in Germany
Present: under eradication, only in some parts of Germany, at low prevalence
Adoption of official phytosanitary measures
No official phytosanitary measures. No demarcated area was established because the plant protection service of Bavaria presumes that the beetle arrived with means of transportation from outbreak areas from Italy or Switzerland. An intensified survey including further traps and visual inspections will be carried out.