**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

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| **1 General information** | |
| 1.1 Title | Closing note of an outbreak of *Elachiptera* sp. in Germany (Brandenburg) |
| 1.2 Executive summary | In 2021, one larva of *Elachiptera decipiens* has been found in an exit hole of *Ostrinia nubilalis* (maize borer) in one *Zea mays* plant in a maize field in Brandenburg. The pest was identified by DNA-sequencing. The concerned field is partly harvested. 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. The new outbreak is about 120 km away from a previous outbreak from 2015, which had been eradicated in 2021.<br><br>**The notification is closed due to a reassessment of the risk.** |
| **2 Information concerning the single authority and responsible persons** | |
| 2.1 Notification from | Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI),<br>Institute for National and International Plant Health, Germany |
| 2.2 Official contact: | Katrin Veit,<br>Tel: +49(0)531 299 3372, 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 its presence was previously unknown.<br><br>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 |

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| | 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. | **Present: at low prevalence** |
| 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. | **Present: at low prevalence, in one area** |
| 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.<br>One larvae was found in an exit hole of *Ostrinia nubilalis* (maize borer) in one *Zea mays* plant. |
| 5.2 Date of finding: | 15-10-2021 |
| 5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis. | 21-09-2021 |
| 5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory | Landesamt für Ländliche Entwicklung, Landwirtschaft und Flurneuordnung (LELF)<br>Referat 43 Saatenanerkennung, Phytopathologie<br>Steinplatz 1<br>15806 Zossen<br>Germany |
| 5.5 Diagnostic method | PM7/129 (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. | 15-10-2021 |
| 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)<br>Plant already planted, not to be reproduced or moved. |
| 6.2 Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity | *Zea mays* (**45 ha**) |
| 6.3 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s). | *Zea mays* (1 pce)<br>The field concerned is partly harvested. |

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| 6.4 Severity of the outbreak | Since the area is partly harvested, no statement can be made about the actual severity of infestation. |
| 6.5 Source of the outbreak | The source of the outbreak is not known. The plant protection service excluded a connection to the occurrence in 2015. |
| 7 **Official phytosanitary measures** | |
| 7.1 Size and delimitation of demarcated area and/or buffer zone | **No area was demarcated because of the low damage.** |
| 7.2 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.<br>**No further survey was conducted in 2021.** |
| 8 **Pest risk analysis/assessment** | Preliminary pest risk assessment exists (dated 2015):<br>*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.<br>**The updated Express-PRA (in German) can be found on the following website:**<br>https://pflanzengesundheit.julius-kuehn.de/elachiptera-decipiens-1-469.html |