

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism (3481)

Title:
Confirmed finding of <i>Popillia japonica</i> in Germany (Rhineland-Palatinate)
Executive summary:
In June 2026, an individual <i>Popillia japonica</i> beetle was found by a private person in their luggage after returning from Milan. The private person reported the suspected finding to the regional plant protection service who took the beetle for further identification. A female <i>Popillia japonica</i> was identified by the official laboratory of Rhineland-Palatinate and the National Reference Laboratory (NRL). Intensive visual inspections are carried out. The beetle is suspected to be a hitchhiker brought back by the private person from Italy.
Pest status in Germany
Present: at low prevalence, only in specific parts of Germany, under eradication
Adoption of official phytosanitary measures
Decision on whether official phytosanitary measures will be taken is pending. After the finding, visual inspections of the surrounding area are carried out.