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

Title:
Update on a finding of *Popillia japonica* in Germany (Bavaria)
Executive summary:
In August 2024, a dead male beetle of *Popillia japonica* 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. Update September 2024: 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. Update July 2025: 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. Update October 2025: 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. Update July 2026: 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. 2nd Update July 2026: 3 more male beetles were caught in two different traps in Kiefersfelden. One beetle was found in the same trap at the motorway rest station as the first beetle in 2026. In the next week, two more beetles were found in one of the additional traps set up in a radius of 1 km around the initial finding from 2024. The trap was also set up at the rest area, though on the other side of the motorway (in the opposite direction of travel). In total, there were 4 more male beetles caught at the motorway rest station in 2026 so far. Since it is a rest station near the border with a lot of through traffic from Italy and the last catches already took place during the holiday season, it is currently still assumed that these beetles are individual hitchhikers. No findings have been detected so far during visual inspections of host plants in the vicinity

of the traps. Visual examinations are ongoing in the area. The NPPO of AT has been contacted to ensure close cooperation in the border region. **<u>Update August 2026:</u> 2 more male beetles were caught in the main trap on the motorway rest station. As before, no signs of an established population have been detected in the area. Therefore, it is currently assumed that these beetles are hitchhikers again. So far, a total of 6 beetles were caught at tis rest station this year.**
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.