Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit

Institute for National and International Plant Health

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22-11-2021

Notification of the presence of a harmful organism – closing note

1 General information	
1.1 Title	Closing note of a finding of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* in Germany (Brandenburg)
1.2 Executive summary	In 2021, a researcher of the national reference laboratory (JKI) bought *Curcuma longa* for scientific purposes in a grocery store. The rhizome was tested for *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* and the result was positive. The turmeric was for consumption and declared as good from organic farming. It was probably imported from Peru according to the labels on the boxes or labeling in the store, respectively. Further trace-back investigations have been started. This finding is not considered to be an outbreak because the infested rhizome was handled in a quarantine station and it was only part of an imported consignment that was for consumption. **Based on the delivery notice the correct origin of the *Curcuma* is Costa Rica instead of Peru. The indication on the label in the shop was wrong.** **Trace-back investigation were carried out but no remaining rhizomes of the lot could be found. Additional samples were taken from different lots of the same trader but they were all tested negative.** **No further measures are taken in Brandenburg because the finding was limited to an imported consignment and the infested rhizome was handled within a quarantine facility.**
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
2.2 Official contact:	Katrin Kaminski, Tel: +49(0)531 299 3378, 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 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.	**Absent: Pest found present but eradicated**
4.3 Pest status in Germany before the official confirmation of the presence, or suspected presence, of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication, only in some parts of Germany, only at one location
4.4 Pest status in Germany after the official confirmation of the presence of the harmful organism.	Present: under eradication, only in some parts of Germany
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. On 23th August 2021, a scientist of the national reference laboratory purchased the rhizome from a grocery store.
5.2 Date of finding:	23-09-2021
5.3 Sampling for laboratory analysis.	Date of sampling: 14-04-2021 The researcher bought *Curcuma longa* and ginger and found symptoms on one of 10 *Curcuma* rhizomes. It showed a brownish ring in cross-section along the entire length of the rhizome and at the scar end irregularities. No information was previously available from the literature on the type of expression of symptoms on turmeric, which is why infestation with *R. pseudosolanacearum* was not immediately assumed.
5.4 Name and address of the Laboratory	Julius Kühn-Institut – Institut für nationale und internationale Angelegenheiten der Pflanzengesundheit Stahnsdorfer Damm 81 14532 Kleinmachnow Germany
5.5 Diagnostic method	According to peer reviewed protocols PM 7/21 (2) - *Ralstonia solanacerarum*, EPPO PM 7/21 (2) *Ralstonia*

	solanacearum, *R. pseudosolanacearum* and *R. syzygii* (*Ralstonia solanacearum* species complex) Extract from one rhizome of *Curcuma* was tested positive with Real-Time PCR according to Weller et al., 2010 (modified according to Vreeburg et al., 2016) and typical colonies were isolated on semi-selective mSMSA medium. Identification was performed on pure culture again with described Real-Time PCR and with multiplex conventional PCR according to Opina et al., 1997; Fegan & Prior, 2005. *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* Phylotype I was identified. Isolated strain will be stored in the collection of the national reference laboratory and further characterized.
5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity.	23-09-2021
6 **Infested area, and the severity and source of the outbreak in that area**	
6.1 Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.	Physically closed conditions: grocery store and quarantine station
6.2 Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s).	*Curcuma longa* (1 pce)
6.3 Severity of the outbreak.	1 of 10 rhizomes showed symptoms.
6.4 Source of the outbreak	**It is assumed that the rhizomes have already been infested in the country of origin, which is according to the labels in the store Peru. When checking the documents it was found that the origin is Costa Rica and not Peru. The indications on the labels were wrong.**
7 **Official phytosanitary measures**	
7.1 Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.	Decision on whether official phytosanitary measures will be taken is pending. **Trace-back investigations were carried out with the goal to remove the remaining *Curcuma* of the concerned lot from the market. No remaining part of the lot could be found. Additional lots from the same trader were traced and tested with negative result.**
7.2 Objective of the official phytosanitary measures.	Eradication
7.3 Measures affecting the movement of goods.	Measures affect import into or movement within the Union of goods. The goal is to remove the remaining rhizomes of the concerned lot from the market.

7.4 Specific surveys.	No
8 **Pest risk analysis/assessment**	Pest risk assessment is not required. Harmful organism is listed in Annex II A of Regulation (EU) 2019/2072.