



PEST RECORD - THE NETHERLANDS

Findings of *Anoplophora chinensis* in old consignment of *Acer palmatum* plants for planting from China

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Introduction

Approximately 35% of in total 244 trees of *Acer palmatum* were found infested with *Anoplophora chinensis* at a greenhouse of a wholesale company of large ornamental plants for planting in plastic containers. The interception was recorded following trace-back of a notification by another Member State of the European Community. *A. chinensis* is listed as a harmful organism for the European Community (see Annex IAI, Council Directive 2000/29/EC). Specific emergency measures have been in place since the beginning of 2008, notably Commission Decision 2008/840/EC as amended.

Pest status: No change of pest status. The harmful organism was intercepted in a consignment originating from China.

Details of the finding

All remaining 244 trees have been cut at different heights for detecting galleries. In total 92 plants were sent to the laboratory for further destructive analysis. In seven plants no signs of infestation were found. Out of the remaining 85 plants, 23 had an exit hole made by the adult beetle and 3 additional larvae, 62 plants contained only larval galleries; in 51 of these a total of 63 larvae were present: 37 plants contained a single larva, 12 contained two and 1 plant contained three larvae; 1 plant had remains of a dead adult. Eleven plants had galleries, but no (remains of) larvae were found.

The age of the exit holes was examined by tree experts of Wageningen University. Out of 17 examined trees with exit holes at the company, six had been formed in 2009, seven in 2008 and one in 2007. For three trees the age of the exit holes could not be determined. Trace-forward resulted in interceptions of seven trees of which one contained an exit hole. This exit hole was formed in 2009. See picture for example.

Exit hole of *Anoplophora chinensis* in a tree of *Acer palmatum* of the consignment from China at the wholesaler company in the Netherlands



Trace-back data

Further trace-back revealed that the consignment of 935 trees of *Acer palmatum* was imported by the same company in April 2007 from China. The consignment was first potted and stored at a separate location in another Member State, different to the Member State who intercepted the first finding. In the period March till November 2008 in total 189 plants were sent back to the wholesale company in the Netherlands for sale to the final consumer. In February 2009 approximately 500 plants were sent back to the wholesale company. The balance (that is 246 trees: 935 -189-500) failed to root, died and remained in the other Member State. In November 2009 at the time of the finding in total 244 trees were still present at the wholesale company in the Netherlands. In total 416 plants had been sold in separate lots of 1 up to 15 pieces to 145 customers in 12 Member States. Seven plants of these have been analysed by

destructive analysis: 3 showed galleries without larvae/adults, 1 of which also had a recently formed exit hole. All relevant Member States have been informed about details of the deliveries, to allow trace-forward.

Phytosanitary measures

At the company concerned the following measures have been taken:

- Destruction of the entire lot. Also one neighbouring lot of *Enkianthus* was destroyed. This lot was found infested with *Apriona japonica* (see pest report of December 2009 on *Apriona spp.*).
- Phytosanitary measures (destruction or complete physical isolation for at least two years at 20 degrees Celsius up to 4 years without heating) have been applied for all lots of other deciduous plants at the company in view of the high level of contamination of the infested consignment.
- A survey has been carried out in a radius of 200 m. surrounding the company, not resulting in any signs of the harmful organism. This specific survey will be repeated on a yearly basis for at least the coming four years.

All deliveries in the Netherlands have been traced where possible and have been destroyed. In case two or more trees are delivered to a single location, this location will be subjected to specific surveillance for the coming four years. In the direct vicinity of locations of delivered lots all deciduous trees have been inspected in a radius of 200 m. This radius is based on experience with findings or small isolated incursions. At low population densities and with the presence of host plants it is presumed that adults of *A. chinensis* will only move a maximum distance of 200 m. and probably much less. For all known small incursions in Europe (France, EPPO Reporting Service 2003, The Netherlands, pest report January 2008) newly infested trees were all detected within 35 m. from trees or shrubs with exit holes.