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## November 2020, Pest Report - The Netherlands

### First finding of *Stigmaeopsis longus* on *Phyllostachys aurea* and *Sasa* plants

This report concerns the first official finding of the spider mite *Stigmaeopsis longus* during an official inspection of a *Phyllostachys aurea* plant at a nursery on August 26, 2020. The organism was subsequently detected in garden-grown bamboo plants, with *Sasa* sp. included, at two other locations. To our knowledge this is the first finding of *S. longus* in Europe. This organism is not regulated as a quarantine pest in the EU and is not listed on the EPPO A1 or A2 list. *Stigmaeopsis longus* is present in Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu) (Saito & al., 2004). The host range of this spider mite includes several broad leaved *Sasa* species (Poaceae: Bambuseae): *Sasa kurilensis*, *S. senanensis* and *S. veitchii* (Migeon & Dorkeld, 2020), but the current finding on *Phyllostachys aurea*, indicates that the host plant range is not restricted to the genus *Sasa*. *Stigmaeopsis longus* creates dense nests on the underside of leaves. Feeding activity of the mites results in large yellow spots, which turn brown in time. Damaged leaves persist on the plants and are detrimental for their aesthetic value. Most of Europe is likely suitable for establishment, given the distribution of the species from north to south Japan. In Europe, two other introduced *Stigmaeopsis* species (*S. celarius* and *S. nanjingensis*) are already widespread (Pellizzari & Duso, 2009). *Stigmaeopsis longus* causes similar damage, but is adapted to cooler climates. It is thus expected to establish in the colder parts of Europe as well, whereas the other two spider mite species are not. Its presence may lead to more pesticide applications in nurseries and loss of aesthetic value of bamboo in gardens. A preliminary pest risk analysis has been completed. The three current findings are not connected and concern different geographic locations in the Netherlands, whereas the extent of the damage on the plants suggests that the introduction was not recent. It is therefore assumed that *Stigmaeopsis longus* is already established in the Netherlands and no official phytosanitary measures are taken.

#### Current Pest status

Present

#### Previous Pest status

Absent, no pest records.

#### References:

- Baker EW & Tuttle DM 1994. A guide to the spider mites (Tetranychidae) of the United States. Indira Publishing House, West Bloomfield, USA, 347 pp.
- Migeon A & Dorkeld F 2020. Spider Mites Web: a comprehensive database for the Tetranychidae.  
<https://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/spmweb/index.php> [accessed September 23, 2020]
- Pellizzari G & Duso C 2007. Occurrence of *Stigmaeopsis nanjingensis* in Europe. Bulletin of Insectology 62 (2): 149-151.
- Saito Y, Mori K, Sakagami T & Lin J 2004. Reinstatement of the genus *Stigmaeopsis* Banks, with descriptions of two new species (Acari, Tetranychidae). Annals of the Entomological Society of America, 97 (4): 635-646.