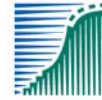


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## Netherlands Plant Protection Service

Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food  
Quality  
P.O.Box 9102



agriculture, nature  
and food quality

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### PEST RECORD

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#### **NEW pest record: Findings of *Leptodictya tabida* in The Netherlands**

During monitoring activities by the Dutch NPPO in January 2009, *Leptodictya tabida* (Herrich-Schaeffer) was found at one location (De Kwakel) in The Netherlands. It was found on plants of *Bambusa vulgaris* (Family Bambusoideae). The bamboo plants had been imported from Costa Rica in 2008. The plants were 2-3 meters in height. Both adults and larval feeding on the leaves caused obvious damage symptoms. This organism is not regulated as part of the annexes of EU Council Directive 2000/29/EC, nor listed on the A lists of EPPO.

**Pest status – The Netherlands:** Transient: non-actionable. The pest has only been detected as an isolated population not expected to survive and no specific phytosanitary measures have been applied.

#### **Identity:**

Name: *Leptodictya tabida* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1840)

Synonym: *Leptodictya hanuala tabida* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1840)

Common name: sugercane lace bug

Taxonomic position: Insecta: Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae.

#### **Morphology:**

The adult 3.5 mm long, flat, light straw to brown in colour, and is distinctive with five long, erect spines projecting from the head and with a straight lateral expansion of the pronotum.

#### **Hosts:**

Corn (*Zea mays* L., *Zea mexicana* (Scherad); Guinea grass *Panicum maximum* Jacq.; Johnson grass *Sorghum halepense* (L.); barnyard grass *Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.); Beauvois; bamboo; sugarcane *Saccharum officinarum*, *Saccharum teosinte*.

#### **Geographic distribution:**

*Leptodictya tabida* originates from Middle and/or South America. It is widely distributed in the area. The records are listed in the literature as: Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Venezuela and the Southern parts of United States (Texas, Florida and Hawaii). This is the first finding in Europe.

**Biology:**

The most comprehensive study of its biology is done in Hawaii (Chang, 1986). The eggs were inserted into parenchyma cells on the abaxial surface of leaf, parallel with the leaf vein. Eggs were laid in groups of 5 to 20 and hatched in 7 to 10 days. The total development from 1st instar to the adult is about 15 days. The number of generations varies, depending on the temperature and quantity of available food. Adults fly only in the early morning and late afternoon in Hawaii.

**Impact:**

In its current area of distribution, the organism is known as a pest of sugar cane (Nguyen & Hall, 1991; (Schaeffer & Panizzi, 2000). It has also been reported on several other monocotyledons like maize, bamboo and several grass species (Chang, 1985). This lace bug can probably not establish outdoors in the Netherlands because it presently occurs only in warm climates and has, as far as known, not moved northwards in the USA. It may establish in glasshouses but the number of host plants in glasshouses is known to be very limited in the Netherlands.

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