



October 2013 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

National Plant Protection Organization
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Finding of one larva and three adults of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* in one fruit production greenhouse of *Capsicum annuum* (bell peppers)

Introduction

This report concerns the finding of one larva in a *Capsicum* fruit and three male adults of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* in pheromone traps in the Netherlands detected in a fruit production greenhouse of *Capsicum annuum* on October 25 and confirmed on 28 October 2013. The origin of the finding is not clear at present and investigations are ongoing. Measures aiming at eradication have been initiated. The organism is not listed as a harmful organism in the EU directive 2000/29/EC. The organism is listed on the EPPO A2 list.

Reason for reporting First report.

Identity of the pest *Thaumatotibia leucotreta*

Categorization of the pest EPPO A2

Location: Honselersdijk

Pest status

Transient, incursion in one fruit production greenhouse of *Capsicum annuum*, under eradication.

Pest significance (detailed description)

Detection and identification

The adults of the harmful organism were detected on October 25 and the identity was confirmed on 28 October 2013 by morphological analysis and verified by molecular analysis (PCR) on October 31. The larva was detected and morphologically identified on October 30.

Circumstances under which the pest was found

As part of export certification for third countries, pheromone traps for *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* are placed in relevant green houses of *Capsicum annuum*. In total three male adults were detected on two traps in one greenhouse. Following meticulous checks of the crop, one larva was detected in an unripe aborted fruit on the floor of the greenhouse.

Impact

Severity / extent of damage: Limited to no damage observed in the crop.

Host plants or articles concerned (if appropriate): fruits of *Capsicum annuum*

Type of plant or mode of cultivation: commercial crops - indoors

Origin of the pest

The origin of the pest is unknown at present and under investigation. There are several companies in the vicinity with regular imports of plant material from countries where *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* is known to occur.

Phytosanitary measures

Within the crop measures have been taken aimed at eradication, including use of pheromone traps, the application of pesticides, and controlled disposal of waste. Within two weeks the crop will be terminated and all waste will be disposed of under official control. Systematic checks of fruits will be applied including destructive sampling.

To determine the possible origin of the finding, a specific survey in the surrounding area has been initiated, in particular aimed at companies with imports from third countries where *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* is known to occur.

References:

NPPO The Netherlands