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PEST REPORT - THE NETHERLANDS

First finding of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* in *Castanea sativa* in The Netherlands

1. Introduction

This pest report concerns the first finding of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu in *Castanea sativa* plants in the Netherlands on a wholesale company located in Boskoop. The infested trees were found during a regular plant passport field inspection in one lot of 5 *Castanea* trees (4-5 m high), delivered in 2008 from a nursery in Italy (Toscana) accompanied with a plant passport. *D. kuriphilus* is not listed in as a harmful organism in Council Directive 2009/29/EC. However, a preliminary pest risk assessment carried out in 2003 has demonstrated that it may be one of the most damaging insects to *Castanea* Mill. Therefore, the Commission has adopted provisional emergency measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Community of *D. kuriphilus* (Commission Decision 2006/464/EC).

2. Details of the finding

The 5 trees had been bought in April 2008. On 21 July 2010, galls were found on all 5 trees (see pictures). In total, 137 galls were investigated and most of them were empty and included an exit hole, probably indicating that *D. kuriphilus* adults had emerged from these galls. Furthermore, 2 living female adults of the species were found. Additionally 1 adult of a chalcidoid parasitoid was found in the galls. The entire lot was still present at the wholesale company in Boskoop and has been destroyed after detection of *D. kuriphilus*. No other *Castanea* plants are present at the company. Italy has been informed about delivery details and has been requested to inform the Netherlands about other deliveries to The Netherlands from the same company which delivered the trees in 2008.

Pictures: NPPO The Netherlands

3. Origin of the finding

Until this finding, the pest status of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* in The Netherlands was: absent, confirmed by survey. In Italy, *D. kuriphilus* is known to occur in several areas including in Toscana. Therefore, it is most likely that the concerned lot was infested in Italy. It is commonly known that early instar larvae of *D. kuriphilus* are capable to overwinter inside chestnut buds, and adults can emerge in spring and form galls on new shoots. Probably, adults emerged in spring 2008 and have developed a small population in the same lot. The population survived apparently the winter in 2009 and 2010.

4. Phytosanitary risk

The infested lot was not moved to other locations, so the organism is not further spread in The Netherlands through the movement of infested plant material. However, it cannot be excluded that the developed population on the concerned lot has infested other *Castanea* plants in the area by natural spread. A comprehensive survey will be conducted during the coming weeks in the area surrounding the location of the infested lot.

5. Phytosanitary measures
According to 2006-464/EC, an infested zone of 5 meter is established surrounding the location of the infected plants. All plants belonging to the same lot were destroyed (5 plants). Furthermore, a focus zone is established of 5 km surrounding the infested zone, and a buffer zone is established of 10 km surrounding the focus zone. Within the total demarcated area of 15 km surrounding the infested zone, movement of *Castanea* Mill is prohibited for a period of at least 3 years. All growers and traders within the area were informed immediately about the measures. Further attention is given through press release, several websites and publications. Furthermore, a survey will be conducted on *Castanea* species in the demarcated area to detect possible populations of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* in this area.

6. Pest status
Transient, under eradication

References

- NPPO The Netherlands
- EPPO Data sheet *D. kuriphilus,* EPPO bulletin 35, 422-424
- EU Commission Decision 2006/464/EC, 26 June 2006

Figure 1 Map with demarcation zones