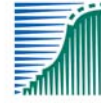

Netherlands Plant Protection Service

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



agriculture, nature
and food quality

PEST REPORT

Import interception of *Metamasius cf. hemipterus* L. in *Phoenix* from Costa Rica

In The Netherlands, larvae of the genus *Metamasius* were intercepted on a consignment of *Phoenix* plants from Costa Rica. The species concerned was most likely *M. hemipterus* L. Subspecies of *M. hemipterus* are also known as 'rotten sugarcane weevil', 'silky cane weevil', 'West Indian cane weevil' and 'West Indian sugarcane borer'. The pest is not listed as a quarantine pest for the European Community at present, nor is it listed by EPPO. It is suggested to add this pest to the alert list of EPPO. Emergency action has been taken to prevent entry of the pest. In case of future interceptions, this emergency action will be evaluated to determine the necessity for continuance of measures for this pest. In case of new interceptions at import, concerned consignments will be rejected.

Information on host range and distribution (source: CABI, 2005)

M. hemipterus L. is present in parts of North-, Central- and South America, Asia (Indonesia and Philippines) and West-Africa. Its principal host is sugarcane but other hosts include banana, pineapple, coconut and several species of palms, papaya, guava, bromeliads and orchids. The larvae also infest ornamental palms such as *Phoenix*. In palms, larvae tunnel in the petioles, crown, or stem, usually in wounds, and extend into healthy tissue.

Phytosanitary risk

Based on a short risk assessment, the Netherlands Plant Protection Service rejected the consignment. Furthermore, there was considerable damage caused by the pest to the intercepted consignment. It is mainly the damage on (ornamental) palms that is of concern to The Netherlands, where ornamental palms are a significant greenhouse crop. Presumably, *M. hemipterus* L. and/or other species of the genus *Metamasius* are of even greater potential concern to southern parts of the EPPO region, although the climatic suitability for establishment is an uncertainty at this moment. It is advisable that a Pest risk analysis is completed for *M. hemipterus* L. and possibly also for other species of the genus *Metamasius*.

Officially declared pest status in The Netherlands: Absent, intercepted only.

DATE: 5 July 2006