



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government



Department of  
Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs  
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[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

27 March 2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Pochazia shantungensis*

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Pochazia shantungensis* (which also covers the recently described species *P. chinensis*, as most of the literature could refer to either species). A link to the rapid PRA can be found at the website given below:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/pest-risk-analyses/>

**We would welcome your views and comments on the PRA and the proposals for future action.**

In submitting any comments you may wish to focus on the summary, key uncertainties and conclusion sections of the risk assessments and to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Your view on the appropriateness of the suggested proposals for future actions?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessment/management measures?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the risk assessment and consider that you have nothing further to add?

This review applies to the UK and is being conducted by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, with the agreement of the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Government. The objective of this stakeholder engagement is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.



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## Background

*Pochazia shantungensis* is a hemipteran insect which feeds on sap of plants. The preferred common name is “brown-winged planthopper”. *Pochazia chinensis* is a very closely related species which was described in 2024, before that being regarded as *P. shantungensis*. As nearly all published information may refer to either species, this PRA does not attempt to distinguish between them.

The insects feed on a very wide range of plant species, both herbaceous and woody. Adults lay eggs deep inside young twigs of woody plants, and the pest overwinters as eggs in the twigs. There are one or two generations per year.

*Pochazia shantungensis* is thought to be native to eastern China. It is now also found in South Korea, Japan and scattered locations in southern Europe. There are apparently established populations in limited parts of France, Pistoia in Italy, Sochi in Russia and Istanbul in Türkiye. There have also been detections of the pest in other parts of Europe, often linked with recently imported plants. In 2024 it was intercepted in England and Wales for the first time, with findings of the pest in multiple consignments of hardy ornamental stock from Italy.

It is an economically damaging pest in eastern Asia, and so the spread of this pest into new parts of the world was concerning. The European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) added it to their early warning Alert List in 2021. This prompted the addition of the pest to the UK plant health risk register. The results of the rapid screening of the risk register (designed to be precautionary) were presented to the UK’s Plant Health Risk Group in March 2023, and this concluded *P. shantungensis* potentially met the criteria to be a quarantine pest for Great Britain. Therefore, the conclusion was that statutory action should be taken on findings pending a more detailed assessment to fully evaluate the risk to the UK. A PRA was requested to research the risk from *P. shantungensis* in more detail, including assessing whether it should be added to the plant health legislation as a quarantine pest for Great Britain. In 2024, the Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate in England and Wales started to detect *P. shantungensis* on consignments of plants imported from Italy. Due to a large number of infested consignments being destroyed, the PRA became very high priority, in order to fully assess the potential risk of this pest to the UK.

The PRA examined the potential for establishment and lifecycle timings in detail, as these are considered to be the key factors for the risk to the UK. Daily temperature data for locations where the pest is currently present were analysed and compared with data from published literature on lifecycle timings from these locations. Daily temperature data were also analysed for the warmest parts of the UK, including London. Every location where the pest is currently present has substantially warmer summers than summers in any part of the UK. Full details are available in the PRA, but the conclusion is that *P. shantungensis* could not complete its lifecycle outdoors in any part of the UK, even in years with very hot summers. Eggs may be able to hatch, but the nymphs could not develop to adult before autumn. If nymphs arrived with imported plants, these individuals might develop to adult and lay eggs. These eggs could overwinter and hatch the next year, but would not be able to develop all the way to adult and lay more eggs. Temperatures are higher in protected

cultivation (especially heated glasshouses) and may allow *P. shantungensis* to complete its full lifecycle. However, the adults require woody plants to lay their eggs into. Only a limited number of specialist growers or botanical collections are likely to keep woody plants in heated glasshouses all year round.

## **Recommendations for action**

The PRA concluded that *P. shantungensis* could not establish outdoors due to the cool UK summers compared to the current range of the pest. The pest is also not expected to be able to establish in most protected cultivation due to lack of year-round woody hosts. As *P. shantungensis* is not considered to be capable of establishing in the UK, or causing unacceptable economic impacts, it does not meet the criteria to be a quarantine pest. Therefore, the UK's Plant Health Risk Group does not recommend statutory action against this pest following the detailed analysis presented in the PRA. Due to this PRA's conclusion that action against this pest is not recommended, the period for stakeholder engagement has been shortened to approximately 4 weeks and will close on 24<sup>th</sup> April. If responses agree with the conclusion of the PRA, action against this pest will no longer be taken after the end of stakeholder engagement. However, until the stakeholder engagement is complete, and the conclusions of the PRA are agreed, action will continue to be taken against this pest, consistent with precedent for developing confirmed positions based on PRA outcomes.

All responses should be sent to [plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk)

Responses should be received by **24 April 2025**.

Information provided in response to this stakeholder engagement, including personal information, may be made available to the public on request, in accordance with the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs)

If you do not wish your response, including your name, contact details and any other personal information, to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the stakeholder engagement. Please note that if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, this will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for the information under freedom of information legislation. However, we cannot guarantee that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

Yours faithfully,

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