Bactericera cockerelli, known as the tomato potato psyllid (TPP) or the North American potato psyllid is a highly destructive pest of potato and a vector of the bacterium Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum, which causes ‘Zebra Chip’ disease. When tubers infested with the bacterium are fried they develop black stripes resembling the markings of a zebra, leading to rejection of potatoes for sale.

In April 2017, Bactericera cockerelli, was intercepted at Heathrow airport, and this is thought to be the first recorded interception of the pest in Europe. Adults and several live nymphs were found underneath the calyx of aubergines imported from Mexico.

The psyllid is native to southern North America, and has been introduced to New Zealand. In February 2017 an outbreak of the pest was discovered in Western Australia.

As this is also a pest of other solanaceous crops including aubergine, pepper and tomato, and can feed on many other plants, it is a threat to potato crops and glasshouse solanaceous crops in the UK.

If you suspect the presence of this pest, please inform the relevant authority (see overleaf for details).
For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:
Tel: 01904 405138
Email: planthealth.info@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Web: https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls

For Scotland, contact:
Your local RPID officer for Agriculture crops
http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/AOcontacts/contacts
Horticulture and Marketing Unit for Horticultural crops
Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot
Web: www.gov.scot/PotatoHealthControls

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:
Tel: 0800 200 7847
Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk
Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk