

Pest Alert: *Tecia solanivora* – Guatemalan potato moth



Fig. 1. Larval emergence holes



Fig. 2. Larval feeding holes



Fig. 3. Guatemalan potato moth larvae

- *Tecia solanivora* is a South American **pest of potatoes**, which has been in the Canary Islands since 1999, and in September 2015 was reported from mainland **Spain** (Galicia), where it is under eradication.
- The main risk of entry into the UK is **via potatoes** and their containers imported from mainland Spain.
- The pest is **cryptic**, larvae burrow into potato tubers and create galleries. **External damage is not seen until the larvae creates an exit hole** (2-3 mm) – Photos above show external and internal tuber damage and larvae of *T. solanivora* (Images courtesy of © International Potato Centre). To date damage has only been found in countries with a warmer climate than the UK.
- Both crops and potatoes in storage may be attacked. Inspection by cutting open tubers and inspection of containers for pupae and adults is recommended.

If you suspect the presence of the pest, please inform the relevant authority (see over for details).

For England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313 (please select option 3 when calling)

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

Web: <https://www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls>

For Scotland, contact your local RPID officer:

Web site: <https://account.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/contact-us/>

Email: potatoexports@sasa.gov.scot

For Northern Ireland, contact DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847

Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.daera-ni.gov.uk