Pest Alert: *Tecia solanivora* – Guatemalan potato moth

*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