

Pest Alert: Brown winged cicada/plant hopper (*Pochazia shantungensis*)



Figs 1-4 left to right: An adult *Pochazia shantungensis*. A nymph on a leaf, with wax filaments held over the body. A close up of a nymph at rest on a leaf. *Pochazia shantungensis* egg mass deposited inside a plant stem with protective wax covering. Fig. 1 © Fera Science Ltd, Figs. 2-3 © Chris Malumphy, Fera. Fig. 4 © Romy Griffiths APHA.

- ***Pochazia shantungensis*** has been recorded on more than **200 plant species in 81 families**. Economically important hosts include fruit species (e.g. **apple, blueberry, chestnut, peach, persimmon**) as well as ornamental trees.
- While adults are distinctive, the life stages most encountered are the nymphs and eggs. The nymphs are white and produce a white fluffy mass of filaments from their rear which is often held over the body. Egg masses are deposited inside plant stems and covered in a white fluffy wax.
- Originally from South East Asia, it was first described in China in 1977. It became established in South Korea in 2010 and has since spread to Japan (2015), Türkiye (2018) and southern Russia (2022). **It is a major pest of fruit crops in South Korea and parts of China**. In South Korea, there is **damage to young branches when females insert their eggs into twigs just at the time of year that fruit is ripening**. This can affect fruit quality and marketability. This pest also causes damage at other times of year by sucking plant sap, resulting in sooty moulds growing on the honey dew that is excreted by the pest.
- In Europe It was first recorded in France in 2018, and in Italy in 2019. In 2021, it was found in Germany in a private garden but was successfully eradicated. In 2023, it was recorded in a private garden in the Netherlands. **This pest was intercepted in the UK on numerous occasions in 2024 on plants for planting from Italy.**

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

For finds at garden centres, plant nurseries or private gardens in England and Wales, contact your local APHA Plant Health and Seeds Inspector, or the PHSI headquarters, in York:

Tel: 0300 1000 313

Email: planthealth.info@apha.gov.uk

For Scotland, contact the Scottish Government's Horticulture and Marketing Unit:

Email: hort.marketing@gov.scot

For Northern Ireland, contact the DAERA Plant Health Inspection Branch:

Tel: 0300 200 7847 Email: planthealth@daera-ni.gov.uk

Web: daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health

For additional information on UK Plant Health please see:

planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/pests-and-diseases/uk-plant-health-risk-register/

planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/

www.gov.uk/plant-health-controls

www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/plant/PlantHealth/PlantDiseases

daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/plant-and-tree-health

For finds in the wider environment:

In GB, please use Tree Alert: treealert.forestresearch.gov.uk/

For NI, please use TreeCheck: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/about-treecheck