

18 December 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Corythucha arcuata* (oak lace bug)

I am writing to seek your views on a UK Pest Risk Analysis for *Corythucha arcuata*. 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/>

Background

Corythucha arcuata is native to North America, and was first reported in Europe in northern Italy in 2000. It has since either been separately introduced to or spread to other areas of Europe, either from Italy, or from Turkey, where it was discovered in 2003.

This rapid PRA is an update of one produced in 2007 and shows that the oak lace bug has the potential to add strain to trees and ecosystems which are already under threat from other pests and environmental factors. This pest has been present in Europe for some time, but in recent years its distribution has either expanded, or its population levels have increased so there is greater evidence of the potential effects of this pest, though still many uncertainties. The ratings for establishment potential and economic impact remain unchanged, however, more evidence of the potential of this pest to move on wood and wood products has led to the risk of entry being raised, and evidence from Europe suggests that this pest may have a greater potential environmental impact than previously rated.

Recommendations for action

The UK Plant Health Risk Group (PHRG) previously consulted in May 2018 as to the UK policy position regarding this pest. It was recommended as an outcome of the consultation that the UK should seek Protected Zone (PZ) status for this pest due to *Quercus* (oak) being one of the major hosts. The updated PRA includes information that was not available in 2007 and as such provides evidence to support the UK's proposal for protected zone status – a summary of protected zone can be found in Annex A to this

attached letter. Regulation of the pest and controls on the movement of trees and wood of oak therefore remains the proposed policy approach.

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 consultation is to gather views from all interested sectors on the UK position to progress. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

Responses

All responses should be sent to plantpestsrisks@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses should be received by **30th January 2019**

Information provided in response to this consultation, 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 publically available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. 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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