

**Recommendation of the Working Group on the Annexes of the Council  
Directive 2000/29/EC – Section II – Listing of Harmful Organisms as  
regards the future listing of *Dothistroma septosporum* (Dorog.) M. Morelet  
(*Mycosphaerella pini* E. Rostrup, syn. *Scirrhia pini*) and *Dothistroma pini*  
Hulbary<sup>1</sup>**

### **Current regulatory status**

*Scirrhia pini* Funk and Parker is a fungus regulated as a harmful organism in Annex IIAII of Plant health Directive 2000/29/EC on plants of *Pinus* L., other than fruit and seeds.

Import requirements are listed under Annex IVAI (9), requiring an official statement that no symptoms of *Scirrhia acicola* (Dearn.) Siggers or *Scirrhia pini* Funk and Parker have been observed at the place of production or its immediate vicinity since the beginning of the last complete cycle of vegetation. Additionally, movement within the EU are subject to requirements listed under Annex IVAII(4) requiring an official statement that no symptoms of *Scirrhia pini* Funk and Parker have been observed at the place of production or its immediate vicinity since the beginning of the last complete cycle of vegetation.

A plant passport is required for internal movement of *Pinus* plants for planting (Annex V) to professional growers and a phytosanitary certificate for import from European third countries. Import of plants of *Pinus* L. from Non-European countries is prohibited (Annex III (1)).

### **Identity of the pest**

There are new developments on the taxonomy of *Scirrhia pini* (current name *Mycosphaerella pini*, anamorph *Dothistroma septosporum* (Dorog.) M. Morelet; *Mycosphaerellaceae*, Ascomycota) as well as the recent identification of *Dothistroma pini* Hulbary (teleomorph unknown), as a second agent causing the same disease. *D. septosporum* and *D. pini* are closely related and cause the same disease (Dothistroma needle blight) predominantly on pine hosts. As in the EFSA's PRA the anamorph's name, *Dothistroma septosporum*, is used from this point onwards.

However, both pathogens are single taxonomic entities and reliable methods are available for their detection and differentiation (the two species were only differentiated in 2004 using molecular tools).

### **Distribution of the pest**

*D. septosporum* is widespread in the EU. Only in IRL, MT, CY and DK it has been declared to be absent. The known distribution of *D. pini* is limited. However, in countries where both species occur, they are found under similar environmental conditions, and in the case of Hungary they have even been found on the same needle.

---

<sup>1</sup> Scientific basis for the recommendation:

- EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLH); Scientific Opinion on the risk to plant health posed by *Dothistroma septosporum* (Dorog.) M. Morelet (*Mycosphaerella pini* E. Rostrup, syn. *Scirrhia pini*) and *Dothistroma pini* Hulbary to the EU territory with the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. EFSA Journal 2013;11(1):3026. [173 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3026.

- Prima phacie project (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/it/supporting/pub/319e.htm>) for *Scirrhia acicola* (*Mycosphaerella dearnessii*)

## Potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area

*D. septosporum* is well established in the EU on *Pinus* spp., but its deregulation might have impact to spread of other quarantine pathogens. Symptoms of *D. pini* are identical to those, caused by *D. septosporum*. Both fungi have similar ecology and morphology. There are also difficulties at visual detection and distinguishing it from the related species *Scirrhia accicola* (*Mycosphaerella dearnessii*) which has IIAI status and has been recorded in 8 MS, mainly as localised infections.

*D. septosporum* can infect all *Pinus* spp. and host plants for planting can be one of the pathways to new areas. Conidia are released with the help of water droplets (e.g., rain, irrigation) generally from late spring to late summer. Ascospores can also be produced where both mating types are present. In Slovenia both mating types of *D. septosporum* are present, which enable spread of the pathogen over greater distances by ascospores and sexual recombination (potentially increasing virulence and adaptability). The origin of *Dothistroma* needle blight is unknown. It might be native to the cloud forests of Central America (prohibition of import of *Pinus* plants for planting of non-European origin).

## Potential for consequences in the PRA area

*D. septosporum* causes premature defoliation of *Pinus* hosts and affects wood yield. In some cases tree mortality has been observed and side effects to the environment. It has no negative impact on the biodiversity. There are also likely to be losses in terms of landscape value, amenity value, recreational uses and tourism in affected forests, parks and gardens. Increased attack by secondary pests, adding to these losses, may also occur.

The current overall impact in the risk assessment area is considered major (loss of wood volume and, in some cases, tree mortality). *D. septosporum* and *D. pini* may seriously threaten both plantations and native forests, particularly of *Pinus* species, in areas where the climatic conditions are suitable for their establishment and spread. Several non-European countries have abandoned the planting of susceptible host species, such as *P. radiata*, *P. nigra* and *P. attenuate* x *P. radiata*.

## Recommendation

The Working Group concludes that *Dothistroma septosporum* and *Dothistroma pini* meets the definition of Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest. In particular, plants for planting is considered to be the main pathway for long distance spread and the impact on the intended use of the plants. A Protected Zone status may be considered for areas of the EU still free from the two organisms.

Although the limited distribution in the EU of *Dothistroma pini*, the Working Group considers that eradication measures are not feasible in forests. This is confirmed by the wide distribution of *Dothistroma septosporum* in the EU. Furthermore, the impact is considered to be important only on some specific species.

A common strategy is needed between *S. acicula*, *Dothistroma septosporum*, and *Dothistroma pini* due to the difficulty of their specific identification. Furthermore, it is important that Annex III prohibitions on import remain in place to prevent introduction of the *teleomorph* stage from non-European Countries.

A full Pest Risk Assessment is available and no further work is needed by EFSA.