

## **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 *Puccinia horiana* Hennings<sup>1</sup>**

### **Current regulatory status**

*Puccinia horiana* is a regulated harmful organism in the EU, listed in Annex II, Part A, Section II of Council Directive 2000/29/EC on plants of *Dendranthema* intended for planting other than seeds. *Dendranthema* plants are also included in Council Directive 98/56/EC of 20 July 1998 on the marketing of propagating material of ornamental plants.

For imports (and internal movement with a plant passport), there must be an official statement that the plants or cuttings have come either (1) from premises which have been officially inspected at least monthly, during the three months prior to dispatch and on which no symptoms of *Puccinia horiana* have been known to have been observed during that period, and in the immediate vicinity of which no symptoms of *Puccinia horiana* have been known to have occurred during the three months prior to export (or marketing), or (2) have undergone appropriate treatment against *Puccinia horiana*.

### **Identity of the pest**

*Puccinia horiana* is a single taxonomic entity and sensitive and reliable methods exist for its detection and identification. Symptoms do not necessarily show immediately after infection but when present are easily identifiable.

### **Distribution of the pest**

*Puccinia horiana* is widespread in the risk assessment area, but not all Member States are infested. Cases are often transient as a result of crops being removed at the end of their productive life.

The first known observations of *P. horiana* were in Japan in 1895 and it then spread to China and South Africa before 1963, from where it is believed to have spread to other chrysanthemum-producing areas, including continental Europe. The first infection in England was reported in 1963, on plants originally imported from Japan.

### **Potential for establishment and spread in the PRA area**

Natural infections with *P. horiana* have been reported only on *Dendranthema* species, especially on the commercially important florists' cultivars, which are widely grown in the risk assessment area. These cultivars are frequently split into three groups: cultivars for cut flowers, cultivars for pot chrysanthemums and cultivars for multiflora plants. Cultivars for cut flowers and pot chrysanthemum are mostly grown in protected cultivation, while multiflora plants are grown outdoors.

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<sup>1</sup> Scientific basis for the recommendation: EFSA Panel on Plant Health (PLH); Scientific Opinion on the risk to plant health posed by *Puccinia horiana* Hennings for the EU territory, with the identification and evaluation of risk reduction options. EFSA Journal 2013;11(1):3069. [121 pp.] doi:10.2903/j.efsa.2013.3069. Available online [www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal)

The climatic conditions in the open field and in protected culture are suitable for *P. horiana* infection/sporulation in most of the EU area. Therefore, the probability of establishment and further spread were both considered very likely.

### **Potential for consequences in the PRA area**

Without control there would be potential for considerable losses, however, yield and quality losses are usually prevented or mitigated via the use of fungicides, resistant cultivars and environmental controls such as avoidance of water films and high relative humidity. As a result, the number of occurrences, especially those with high impact, is currently relatively limited. The current overall impact in the risk assessment area was considered minor, with medium uncertainty, mainly because standard protective actions are taken in most EU production areas.

No environmental impacts have been detected, or are predicted and the host does not play a significant environmental role.

The disease can develop from infected plants with dramatic rapidity under suitable conditions under protection or in the field, causing serious losses if not quickly detected or not effectively controlled. Such cases are currently very rare but, if they occur, the impact can be locally severe, especially if cuttings were not produced under a certification scheme and were latently infected. Infected planting material for multiplication for flower production purposes, because of the intended use of the commodity, is very likely to be introduced into greenhouses or open fields. In some cases, susceptible hosts may also be in proximity.

### **Recommendation**

The Working Group suggests listing *Puccinia horiana* as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest.

*Puccinia horiana* is already present in many MSs, although with a restricted distribution. Under the current EU regulation the damage caused by the pathogen in the risk assessment area is minor. If the use of voluntary certification schemes for the production of chrysanthemum plants for planting were removed, the risk of introduction, spread, and impact of *Puccinia horiana* in the EU, would probably increase, however cessation of the use of certification schemes by industry appears unlikely.