

helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 26th May 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation on summaries of the EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation) Pest Risk Analyses (PRA) for two pests ahead of proposals for future action.

I am writing to seek your views on the EPPO (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation) PRA (Pest Risk Analysis) summaries for *Thekopsora minima* (Fungi: Pucciniastraceae) and *Polygraphus proximus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae). As mentioned in the summaries, new GB regulations will be drafted using the EPPO PRA recommendations with the aim of further mitigating the risk of introducing these pests.

The summaries of EPPO's findings and their relevance to GB are enclosed. A link to the EPPO PRAs can be found at the webpages given below:

<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/THEKMI/documents>

<https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POLGPR/documents>

Recommendations for action against *Thekopsora minima*

The EPPO PRA recommended *Vaccinium* plants for planting (except seeds, tissue cultures, pollen) should;

- come from a PFA (Pest Free Area) or
- grow under complete physical isolation or
- be subject to a systems approach (inspection at place of production, fungicide treatments during production, dormant and free from leaves at import, consignment free from plant debris, inspection of the consignment) and

Also packed in conditions preventing infestation during transport.

Recommendations for action against *Polygraphus proximus*

A summary table of suggested measures is presented in section 7.45 of the EPPO PRA.

- Phytosanitary certificates are suggested for all assessed commodities.
- PFA or treatment requirements are suggested for wood, particle wood and waste wood, and bark of host species.
- PFA requirements, post entry quarantine, stem diameter restrictions or protected growing conditions are suggested for plants for planting.
- PFA requirements or stem diameter restrictions are suggested for plant parts (including cut Christmas trees).

We would welcome your views and comments on the summary enclosed.

In submitting any comments you may wish to consider the following:

- Are any factual corrections required?
- Can you provide any additional information (or links to other sources of information) that may help address uncertainty identified in the assessments?
- Are there any risks that have not been adequately considered?
- Have you reviewed the pest risk assessment summary and consider that you have nothing further to add?

Comments to be submitted by:

All responses should be sent to plantpestsrisks@defra.gov.uk by the **4th August 2021**.

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 sincerely,

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