

[helpline@defra.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

5<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

## Rapid Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) on *Corythucha ciliata* (the plane lacebug)

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

**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. We will take all comments made into account in developing the UK position.

## Background

*Corythucha ciliata* (the plane lacebug) is a hemipteran insect, native to North America and now also present in mainland Europe. It mainly feeds on *Platanus* (plane) trees.

It is not known to be present in the UK, but has been intercepted and treated for in the past. A PRA was requested to better assess the level of risk to the UK and help decide whether statutory action against future interceptions would be justified.

In general, *C. ciliata* causes economic, environmental, and social impact by causing chlorosis of leaves on *Platanus* trees resulting in defoliation and weakening of the tree. This happens as *C. ciliata* feed on the underside of the leaves, causing small chlorotic stippling on the upper leaf surface as well as producing excrement on the underside, reducing the respiratory ability of the host tree. This causes aesthetic issues as the leaves bronze and drop prematurely.

Given evidence of impacts in similar climates to the UK in mainland Europe, it may be expected that comparable effects will occur in the UK if the pest were to be introduced. While this means that it is not expected that this pest would have a significant impact on its own, it may add to pressure on already stressed trees, especially in urban areas where there may be higher temperatures.

## Recommendations for action

Statutory action through regulation as a Quarantine pest.

All responses should be sent to [plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk](mailto:plantpestrisks@defra.gov.uk)

Responses should be received by **28<sup>th</sup> June 2023**.

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 publicly 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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