



Recommendation for interceptions and findings of *Aleurolobus marlatti* (Marlatt whitefly), a citrus pest

Date 13th Sept 2013

This is the result of a brief assessment of readily available literature which indicates that statutory action against this organism is unlikely to be appropriate.

Species / Taxonomic group	<i>Aleurolobus marlatti</i> (Quaintance) (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae), Marlatt whitefly
Reason for assessment	<i>A. marlatti</i> was intercepted on <i>Murraya koenigii</i> (Curry leaves) from Pakistan 4 th Sept 2013. There have been eighteen interceptions of this pest since 2002 on produce mostly from India (10 interceptions) and Pakistan (5 interceptions), but also from Sri Lanka and Thailand. These interceptions have mostly been on curry leaves (9) and <i>Psidium guajava</i> (4), but also <i>Citrus</i> and <i>Ocimum sanctum</i> . No statutory action has been recommended as <i>A. marlatti</i> is not recorded as a pest of anything but citrus and is already present in parts of the EU.
Pest distribution	<i>A. marlatti</i> has been reported to be present in Europe (Malta and Sicily), Africa (Egypt, Sudan), Asia (Iran, Saudi Arabia India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines) and Australia.
Hosts	<i>A. marlatti</i> is polyphagous, feeding on plants belonging to 27 families. Some of these species are grown as ornamentals in the UK; including <i>Ficus</i> sp. and <i>Rosa indica</i> , and <i>Ocimum</i> sp. are grown as a herb.
Pest status	<i>A. marlatti</i> has been recorded as a pest of citrus in Japan but no further records of <i>A. marlatti</i> causing damage to its hosts have been found. No information was available on its status as a viral vector.
Potential distribution and impact	The current distribution of <i>A. marlatti</i> indicates that it is unlikely that it would be able to survive outdoors in the UK climate. It is not known if it could establish under protected conditions, however if it became established in protected conditions, the potential for the pest to spread is likely to be limited. It is likely to have more impact in southern Europe where citrus is grown, but it is already present in two countries here.
No statutory action is recommended because:	
Citrus are not grown as a commercial crop in the UK.	
There is only limited evidence of <i>A. marlatti</i> being a damaging pest.	
It is unlikely to be able to survive outdoors in the UK.	
It is already present in the EU	