The Food & Environment Research Agency

Recommendation for interceptions and findings of *Calepitrimerus vitis* (Acari: Eriophyidae)

Date: 15 November 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	*Calepitrimerus vitis* (Nalepa) (Acari: Eriophyidae), Grape leaf rust mite
Reason for assessment	This mite was found in September 2013 at a UK nursery on a sample of leaves taken from vines (cv Black Hamburg) grown in Spain.
Pest distribution	*C. vitis* is widespread throughout the world, being present in most viticultural areas, including much of Europe. It had not previously been recorded in the UK.
Hosts	*Vitis vinifera* (grapevine)
Pest status	*C. vitis* is a recognised pest of grapevine. The damage caused by *C. vitis* varies according to the growth stage of the grapevine. In early spring growth infection causes leaf curing and distortion, with reduced grape production seen. In fully expanded leaves discolouration and bronzing are seen, with severe cases causing blackened leaves and leaf drop. This can cause up to 30% yield loss in young vineyards with significant economic impact. The impact depends on population densities, with high densities at budburst having the greatest economic impact. The highest densities of *C. vitis* are generally seen in countries with dry, hot summers.
Potential distribution and impact	*C. vitis* is likely to be able to establish in the UK, but possibly with fewer generations per year and lower population densities than in countries with dry, hot summers, meaning that the economic impact would be lower. It is likely that *C. vitis* can be spread long distances by wind dispersal and can also be dispersed by humans, indicating that containment would be difficult. Also these symptoms can be confused with those of spider mites, thrips, powdery mildew and microelement deficiency, which would make identification difficult.
No statutory action is recommended because:	
The difficulties of detecting the pest suggest that it could have been introduced into the UK on numerous occasions and therefore could already be established.	
If the pest is not already established, the difficulty of detecting the pest would make it very difficult to keep the pest out of the UK in the future.	
The pest is likely to be less damaging in the UK than in areas with hotter summers.	