



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Uywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



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Forestry Commission



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September 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Response to UK Policy recommendation for *Euzophera bigella* (Quince moth)

Thank you for submitting views on the development of a UK policy position for *Euzophera bigella*. This letter is to notify you of the outcome.

Recommendations

The UK Plant Health Risk Group (PHRG) review presented the following recommendation:

- Statutory action to be taken on interceptions of this organism but that action in the wider environment, if found would prove difficult to justify against the proportionate risk posed to the UK. Therefore, if the pest is detected in the wider environment, this decision will be reviewed.

Background

Euzophera bigella is a moth found in much of Europe and parts of Asia, whose larvae (caterpillars) feed inside a variety of fruit and under the bark of a number of species of tree. Though there have been several adults caught in light traps in the UK, such records are very scarce and there is no evidence this species is established in any part of this country. Given the wide host range and presence in Europe, combined with the UK's climatic conditions it is considered too cool for major impacts to occur.

Summary of responses

One response was received, from the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC). The JNCC supported the PHRG recommendation of statutory action against interceptions on a precautionary basis but also wanted to recognise and highlight the importance of orchard



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habitats which are currently in decline and that *E.bigella* had many orchard hosts associated with it.

Key concerns and government response

- Orchard tree host species could be of particular concern for this pest, especially as this is a habitat in decline.
 - There are some suitable hosts in the UK but the impact is considered to be small mainly because it is too cool in the UK for any major impacts to occur. Existing impacts from the native codling moth on orchard crops are likely to be far more severe than those which *E. bigella* may cause if it were to establish in UK orchards.

Next steps

The response received broadly supported the conclusions of the UK PHRG, which together with evidence about the pest, has helped confirm the position that the UK will take statutory action against interceptions on traded material. If the pest is detected in the wider environment, this position will be reviewed.

I would like to thank those who have contributed views, which have been very valuable in helping to develop a policy position on this pest. I hope this letter demonstrates the reasoning behind our decision and that we have sought to find a solution which reflects the current position and the views expressed by stakeholders. We will be pleased to continue engaging with you about this pest. If you have any views about how this review was handled, or its outcome, please let me know.

Yours sincerely

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