

Mini data sheet on *Rhizoecus americanus*

Added in 1998 - Deleted in 2002

Reasons for deletion:

A PRA (01-9109) was conducted and concluded that the pest did not have the characteristics of a quarantine pest. In 2002, it was therefore removed from the EPPO Alert List.

Rhizoecus americanus (Hemiptera: Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) - Root mealybug

Why	<i>R. americanus</i> came to our attention because it is considered as a pest of ornamentals in south-eastern USA.
Where	Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, USA (Florida), Virgin Islands (US). Found in Italy for the first time in 1992 on <i>Dieffenbachia</i> (in glasshouses in Pieve san Paolo) but did not establish.
On which plants	Many ornamentals (e.g. <i>Aralia</i> , <i>Asparagus</i> , chrysanthemum, <i>Dieffenbachia</i> , <i>Ficus</i> , <i>Gardenia</i> , <i>Hibiscus</i> , <i>Kentia</i> , <i>Lantana</i> , <i>Phoenix</i> , <i>Saintpaulia</i> , <i>Strelitzia</i> , etc.) (see Ben-Dov for a more complete list).
Damage	All stages can be found on the roots of the plants and growing medium. As they attack roots, plant growth is reduced, foliage is deteriorated and plants may finally die. Considered as a serious pest in Florida nurseries (Ben-Dov, 1994).
Pathway	Ornamental plants for planting and soil from infested countries.
Possible risks	Considered as a serious pest in Florida nurseries. It can damage (and apparently kill in some cases) many ornamental species. The pest can be introduced with the plants but also the growing medium attached to them. It was found in Italy in 1992, but was never seen again. Another root mealybug, <i>Rhizoecus hibisci</i> , is already listed as a quarantine pest by the European Union.
Source(s)	Ben-Dov, Y. (1994) A systematic catalogue of the mealybugs of the world (Insecta: Homoptera: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae and Putoidae) with data on geographical distribution, host plants, biology and economic importance. Intercept Limited, Andover, UK, 686 pp. Insect and related pests of flowers and foliage plants. Some important, common and potential pests in the southeastern United States. edited by Baker, J.R. (1994) North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, US, 106 pp.
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