

Mini data sheet on *Scyphophorus acupunctatus*

Added in 2002 - Deleted in 2006

Reasons for deletion:

Scyphophorus acupunctatus has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years and during this period no particular international action was requested by the EPPO member countries. In 2006, it was therefore considered that sufficient alert has been given and the pest was deleted from the Alert List.

Scyphophorus acupunctatus (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) - Sisal weevil

Why	<i>Scyphophorus acupunctatus</i> (synonyms: <i>S. interstitialis</i> , <i>S. anthracinus</i> , <i>S. robustior</i> , <i>Rhynchophorus asperulus</i>) has been found several times by Italy and the Netherlands on imported ornamental plants (<i>Beaucarnea</i> , <i>Dasyilirion</i> and <i>Yucca</i>) under glasshouse conditions, which shows that the pest has a pathway to enter Europe.
Where	<p><i>S. acupunctatus</i> originates from the Americas, but it has been introduced to many other parts of the world (mainly arid and tropical regions), probably with the introduction of <i>A. sisalana</i> for the production of sisal.</p> <p>EPPO region: found in glasshouses on imported <i>Beaucarnea</i> in Italy (in Lombardia in 1998 and again in 2000, infected plants were destroyed). Found on imported <i>Yucca</i> and <i>Dasyilirion</i> in the Netherlands. Not established in Europe.</p> <p>Asia: Indonesia (Java, Kalimantan, Sumatra), Saudi Arabia.</p> <p>Africa: Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania.</p> <p>North America: Mexico, USA (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas).</p> <p>Central America and Caribbean: Cayman Islands, Costa Rica, Cuba, Netherlands Antilles (including Curaçao), Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Virgin Islands (US).</p> <p>South America: Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela.</p> <p>Oceania: Australia (Queensland).</p>
On which plants	Agavaceae and Dracaenaceae. <i>Agave</i> (many different species, e.g. species used for fibre production: <i>A. sisalana</i> (sisal), <i>A. fourcroydes</i> (henequen); for beverage: <i>A. tequilana</i> (tequila); for ornamental purposes: <i>A. americana</i> ...), <i>Beaucarnea</i> , <i>Dasyilirion longissimum</i> , <i>Dracaena draco</i> , <i>Furcraea</i> , <i>Yucca</i> (e.g. <i>Y. aloifolia</i> , <i>Y. elephantipes</i> , <i>Y. glauca</i>).
Damage	Insect larvae bore galleries into the plants. Adult damage consists of groups of feeding punctures on young leaves. In cases of severe attacks, plants in nurseries may die. In addition to feeding damage, the insect favours the development of secondary fungal or bacterial rots. Adults of <i>S. acupunctatus</i> are small black weevils (9-15 mm long). There are 5 larval instars, and the fully developed larva is about 18 mm long, creamy white and legless. Pupation then takes place within a cocoon made of plant fibres and debris. The total life cycle takes 50-90 days, with 4 or 5 generations per year. <i>S. acupunctatus</i> is considered as the most important pest of cultivated <i>Agave</i> (fibre, beverage and ornamental production). Yield losses of 40% have been reported in northern Yucatan, Mexico, on <i>A. fourcroydes</i> (henequen).
Pathway	Plants for planting and pot plants of <i>Agave</i> , <i>Beaucarnea</i> , <i>Dasyilirion</i> , <i>Dracaena</i> and <i>Yucca</i> from countries where <i>S. acupunctatus</i> occurs.
Possible risks	<i>Agave</i> occurs essentially around the Mediterranean Basin for ornamental purposes. In other parts of Europe, host plants of <i>S. acupunctatus</i> are grown under glasshouse as ornamentals. More data is needed on the biology of the pest to assess its potential of establishment on <i>agave</i> growing outdoors (<i>S. acupunctatus</i> appears more as a tropical, subtropical species). Considering that a large trade of ornamental host plants takes place between Europe and countries where the pest is present, and the difficulty to detect the insect at the time of

- import, *S. acupunctatus* could present a risk for glasshouse production of ornamentals Agavaceae and Dracaenaceae.
- Note Imports of Agavaceae and Dracaenaceae are also a pathway of other tropical stem/wood boring insects. For example, the ambrosia beetle *Xyleborus ferrugineus* (Coleoptera: Scolytidae). It was found several times in the Netherlands (at least in 1979, 1989, 1999) on *Dracaena*, and *Yucca* plants imported from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico (de Goffau, 1991, 2000) and grown under glasshouses. Another example is *Yuccaborus frontalis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) which was also found in the Netherlands in 1989 in *Yucca* and *Beaucarnea* plants imported from Central America (de Goffau, 1991).
- Source(s) Annual Report 2001, Diagnostic Centre, Plant Protection Service, 135 pp.
 CABI Crop Protection Compendium, 2001 edition. CABI, Wallingford, UK.
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