

Mini data sheet on *Stephanitis pyrioides*

Added in 1998 - Deleted in 2002

Reasons for deletion:

Stephanitis pyrioides 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 2002, it was agreed that it could be deleted, considering that sufficient alert has been given.

Stephanitis pyrioides (Hemiptera: Tingidae) - Azalea lace bug

Why	<i>S. pyrioides</i> came to our attention because it is considered as a pest of ornamentals in south-eastern USA, and another species (<i>S. takeyai</i>) has recently been found in UK (see below).
Where	Japan, Macau, USA (from New York to Massachusetts southward to Florida and west to Texas). Found in the Netherlands on Azalea originating from Japan in 1995 in a nursery in Vleuten, and again in 1998 in another nursery in Bleiswijk. It had also been found in the past (from 1905 to 1910) in Boskoop.
On which plants	Azalea (evergreen cultivars are preferred hosts, but also attacks deciduous cultivars), mountain laurel (<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>) and rhododendron.
Damage	Caused by adults and nymphs by feeding on leaves. Reported to be the most serious pest of azalea since its introduction from Japan in the 1920s.
Note	Another species, the andromeda lace bug, <i>Stephanitis takeyai</i> , also occurs in USA (introduced from Japan). It is a pest of <i>Pieris japonica</i> (andromeda) and Rhododendron. This species has recently been found outdoors in a very limited outbreak in UK (see above). A third species, <i>Stephanitis rhododendri</i> already occurs in Europe but has probably been introduced from North America. It causes damage locally on azalea and rhododendron.
Pathway	Azalea, rhododendron, <i>Kalmia</i> plants for planting from Japan and USA.
Possible risks	Limited host range, but Ericaceae are important ornamentals. Originates from Japan, introduced with <i>S. takeyai</i> into North America where they are both reported as serious pests of Ericaceae and difficult to control (sheltered way of life). <i>S. rhododendri</i> already occurs in Europe (probably introduced from North America).
Source(s)	Annual Report 1995, Diagnostic Centre, Plant Protection Service, Wageningen (NL), 46-47 Annual Report 1998, Diagnostic Centre, Plant Protection Service, Wageningen (NL), 62. 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. Pun Wing Wah, de C. Batalha, C.D. (1997) Manual dos Insectos de Macau, Câmara Municipal das Ilhas, Macau, 125 pp. Shrewsbury, P.M.: Raupp, M.J. (2000) Evaluation of components of vegetational texture for predicting azalea lace bug, <i>Stephanitis pyrioides</i> (Heteroptera: Tingidae), abundance in managed landscapes. Environmental Entomology, 29(5), 919-926.

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