

Report of a Pest Risk Assessment

This summary presents the main features of a pest risk assessment which has been conducted on the pest, according to EPPO Standard PP 5/3(1) Pest Risk Assessment Scheme.

Pest: *Xylotrechus altaicus*
PRA area: The European and Mediterranean part of the EPPO region
Assessor: EPPO Secretariat
Date: February, 2000

1. INITIATION

1.1 Reason for doing PRA: Study of the risk of forest pests occurring on the territory of the former USSR for the western part of EPPO region
1.2. Taxonomic position of pest: *Xylotrechus altaicus* Gebler (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

2. PROBABILITY OF INTRODUCTION

2.1 Entry

2.1.1 Geographical distribution: Of limited distribution in EPPO region
Originates in Pakistan and Western India
Europe: Absent
Asia: Russia (Southern Siberia, Transbaikalia, Far East) and Mongolia (North)
North America: Absent
Central America & Caribbean: Absent
South America: Absent
Oceania: Absent

2.1.2 Major host plants: Attacks only larch: *Larix sibirica* (= *L. altaica* = *L. rossica* = *L. sukaczewii*), *L. gmelinii* (= *L. dahurica*), *L. olgensis*, *L. kamtschatica* (= *L. kurilensis* = *L. ochotensis* = *L. middendorffii*), *L. x maritima* (= *L. amurensis*) and other larch species present in its natural range.

2.1.3 Which pathway(s) is the pest likely to be introduced on: *X. altaicus* is associated with larch wood, either as eggs or early instar larvae under bark or as late stage larvae, pupae or adults within the wood itself. *X. altaicus* is unlikely to be transported in planting material or cut branches since the species does not attack the small branches or trunks. Adults may, however, be resting on the surface of such material.

In decreasing order of risk, main pathways for *X. altaicus* may be:

1. Wood with bark
2. Wood without bark
3. Dunnage and packing material
4. Plants for planting and cut branches

2.2 Establishment

- 2.2.1 Crops at risk in the PRA area:** All species of *Larix*.
- 2.2.2 Climatic similarity of present distribution with PRA area (or parts thereof):** North and centre of the European part of the EPPO region has a similar climatic conditions with the area of origin and present distribution of the pest.
- 2.2.3 Aspects of the pest's biology that would favour establishment:**
- 2.2.4 Characteristics (other than climatic) of the PRA area that would favour establishment:** Host plants are widely distributed within the PRA area. Suitable ecological niches are available throughout the PRA area.
- 2.2.5 Which part of the PRA area is the endangered area:** The endangered part of the PRA area covers primarily northern and central parts of the European EPPO region, as well as mountain areas of some other countries.

3. ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 Describe damage to potential hosts in PRA area:** *X. altaicus* attacks both healthy and slightly stressed trees of different ages leading to their death.
- 3.2 How much economic impact does the pest have in its present distribution:** *X. altaicus* is one of the most important pests of larch in the region of its present distribution. Its effects can also be environmental (in destroying natural forests) and social (in destroying large trees in towns). The death of forests on large territories has a big social influence on the people living in damaged areas.
- 3.3 How much economic impact would the pest have in the PRA area:** Considering the similarity of ecological conditions, the damage to larch in the PRA area should be not less than in the present area of the pest.

4. CONCLUSIONS OF PRA

- 4.1 Summarize the major factors that influence the acceptability of the risk from this pest:** This pest
- comes from an area with similar climatic conditions to the PRA area and causes serious economic damage there;
 - could easily establish throughout a part of PRA area;
 - is the pest of larch trees which are important in some parts of the endangered area;
 - can cause also serious environmental and social damage.
- 4.2 Estimate the probability of entry:** medium (from 3.3 for plants for planting to 5.3 for wood with bark)
- 4.3 Estimate the probability of establishment:** medium (5.54)
- 4.4 Estimate the potential economic impact:** medium (5.3)
- 4.5 Degree of uncertainty** There is little uncertainty in this assessment

**5. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS
OF THE ASSESSOR**

The endangered area is primarily northern and central parts of the European EPPO region, as well as mountain areas of some other countries. Although the potential economic impact may not be high, since larch is not a major forest tree for the endangered area, the environmental and social effects may be significant in the mountain areas where larch is widely grown and has an important stabilizing effect.

X. altaicus should be included in the A2 EPPO list.