

Mini data sheet on *Pochazia shantungensis* (Hemiptera: Ricaniidae)

Added to the EPPO Alert List in 2021 - Deleted in 2026

Reasons for deletion:

Pochazia shantungensis has been included in EPPO Alert List for more than 3 years. An EPPO PRA report was prepared and concluded that there was a lack of evidence of economic impact in the EPPO region. In addition, numerous outbreaks and interceptions of *P. shantungensis* in the region suggested that the species may already be more widely distributed than previously reported. In 2026, the Working Party on Phytosanitary Regulations agreed that it could be deleted from the Alert List.

Why: *Pochazia shantungensis* is damaging fruit tree pest. It is native in China and invasive in the Republic of Korea. In the EPPO region, it was first reported in 2021, both in Türkiye and in France (EPPO RS 2021/129). Further records were then made from other countries in the EPPO region.

Where: *P. shantungensis* was first described in China in 1977. It was introduced in the Republic of Korea in 2010 and rapidly spread. It was collected for the first time in 2018 in the European part of Türkiye (it was subsequently also found on the Asian side of the Istanbul area) and in Southern France. In 2021, it was detected in a private garden in Baden-Württemberg, Germany, but subsequently eradicated. In 2022, its presence was reported in Toscana, Italy, as well as in Sochi (Krasnodar) in Russia. In 2023, *P. shantungensis* was found in a private garden in the Netherlands. Subsequently isolated specimens were reported from other EPPO countries.

EPPO region: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia (?), France (including Corse), Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, Türkiye.

Asia: China (Fujian, Guangxi, Hubei, Fujian, Shandong, Zhejiang), Japan (Honshu, Kyushu), Republic of Korea.

North America: incursion in USA (Georgia).

On which plants: *P. shantungensis* is a very polyphagous pest, with records on more than 200 plant species in 81 families. Economically important hosts include fruit species (e.g. apple, blueberry, chestnut, peach, persimmon) as well as forest and ornamental trees.

Damage: This pest directly causes damage by sucking plant sap as well as by damaging young branches when females insert their eggs. It also indirectly induces the development of sooty mold on leaves as a result of honeydew secretion. One generation per year is observed in the Republic of Korea but two generations occur per year in China. In Türkiye, two generations per year have also been observed. The pest overwinters as eggs on trees only. Eggs are covered with white wax filaments. Overwintered eggs start to hatch from May in the Republic of Korea. Nymphs seem to prefer herbaceous plants rather than trees. Adults can be observed from July, and the new generation of overwintering eggs are generally found until late August in the Republic of Korea. Adults are about 15 mm long.

In the Republic of Korea, control of the pest in orchard requires insecticide application targeting the egg stages. Overall, the population of *P. shantungensis* in agricultural areas has increased by over 100% each year from 2015 to 2017, causing serious economic damage. In China, damage is reported only from Zhejiang.

Pictures are available at <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POCZSH/photos>

Dissemination: Data is missing on its natural spread, but adults can fly and have the highest mobility among all developmental stages. Nymphal stages are also mobile. Over long distances, the movement of host plants can transport the pest as eggs.

Pathways: Plants for planting of host plant species from countries where *P. shantungensis* occurs. As eggs are mostly laid on young branches, wood is unlikely to be a pathway.

Possible risks: *P. shantungensis* has a wide host range which includes economically important fruit crops for the EPPO region. It has already been introduced into several EPPO countries where it seems to be locally established. It is an important pest in the Republic of Korea and parts of China, and could also become an important pest in the EPPO region.

Sources

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