Epilachna vigintioctopunctata (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae)

This short description has been prepared in the framework of the EPPO Study on Pest Risks Associated with the Import of Tomato Fruit. The whole study can be retrieved from the EPPO website.

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Africa North America Asia Oceania South-Central America and Caribbean

Epilachna (Henosepilachna) vigintioctopunctata (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) (28-spot ladybird, Hadda beetle)

Why

Identified in the EPPO tomato study. It is a serious pest of solanaceous crops.

Where

EPPO region: absent. **Note**: Wikipedia mentions that *E. viginctioctopunctata* occurs in Russia. The reference given (AgroAtlas 2003-2009) refers to E. vigintioctomaculata. No record of E. viginctioctopunctata in Russia was found. One mention on the English page of the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Science seems to be a mistranslation of the Russian page, which lists only E. vigintioctomaculata (ZIN, ND).

Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, China (south-eastern half), India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Rep., Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam (CABI CPC)

South America: Brazil (CABI CPC, Schroder et al., 1983)

Oceania: Australia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu (CABI CPC), New Zealand (Biosecurity NZ, 2010a & b)

Climatic similarity

High. 11 common climates considering the countries listed above, but probably 8-9. It has established in New Zealand, which has a temperate-type climate, and is present in most of Australia. In China (CABI CPC), it seems to be present in the south-eastern part of the country, broadly south of a line Sichuan to Hebei.

On which plants

Eggplant, potato, tobacco, tomato, and other solanaceous plants (NBAII, 2013). CABI CPC also lists beans and loofah, and Naz et al. (2012) S. nigrum, S. surretanses, Datura, and Physalis sp. In Bangladesh, E. v. was found on the following cucurbit crops: Momordica charantia (bitter gourd), Cucurbita moschata (sweet gourd), Luffa acutangula (ribbed gourd), Trichosanthes asguina (snake gourd), cucumber and Momordica dioica (teasle gourd) (DAE, 2010). Shiri and Katakuro (1999) note that Solanaceae are preferred hosts, with some cucurbits also being hosts.

Damage

Eggs, larvae, pupae are on leaves. Adults are mobile and may be on fruit. E. vigintioctopunctata is a major pest of eggplant in India (NBAII, 2013) and identified as a serious pest in Naz et al. (2012).

Dissemination

Adults fly (up to 500 m) and the pest is also moved in plant material and hitchhiker (Biosecurity NZ, 2010a). It has been introduced in New Zealand (Biosecurity NZ, 2010 a&b). It seems to have also been introduced in Brazil recently (Schroeder et al., 1993 from abstract, full text not available).

Pathway

Plants for planting, fruits and vegetables (especially if green parts attached) of host plants from countries where E. vigintioctopunctata occurs.

Possible risks

Eggplant, tomato, potato are major crops in the EPPO region. The climatic similarity according to the EPPO Study between the area where it occurs and the EPPO region is high. Eradication in New Zealand was attempted but failed (Biosecurity NZ, 2010b).

Categorization

From PQR: Eastern Africa A1 2001, Southern Africa A1 2001, Chile 1995. It was regulated in New Zealand for tomatoes from Tonga and Australia (Biosecurity NZ, 1998, 2000).

Sources

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