

EPPO Datasheet: *Anthonomus bisignifer*

Last updated: 2023-04-20

IDENTITY

Preferred name: *Anthonomus bisignifer*

Authority: Schenckling

Taxonomic position: Animalia: Arthropoda: Hexapoda: Insecta: Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Curculioninae

Other scientific names: *Minyrus albopilosus* Matsumara, *Minyrus japonicus* Matsumara

Common names: Japanese strawberry blossom weevil, Japanese strawberry weevil

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EPPO Categorization: A1 list

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EU Categorization: Quarantine pest ((EU) 2019/2072 Annex II A)

EPPO Code: ANTHBI

Notes on taxonomy and nomenclature

The correct taxonomic name for this species is *Anthonomus bisignifer* Schenckling 1934. Other older scientific names for this species are all junior homonyms. A complete nomenclatural history is given in Alonso-Zarazaga *et al.* (2017).

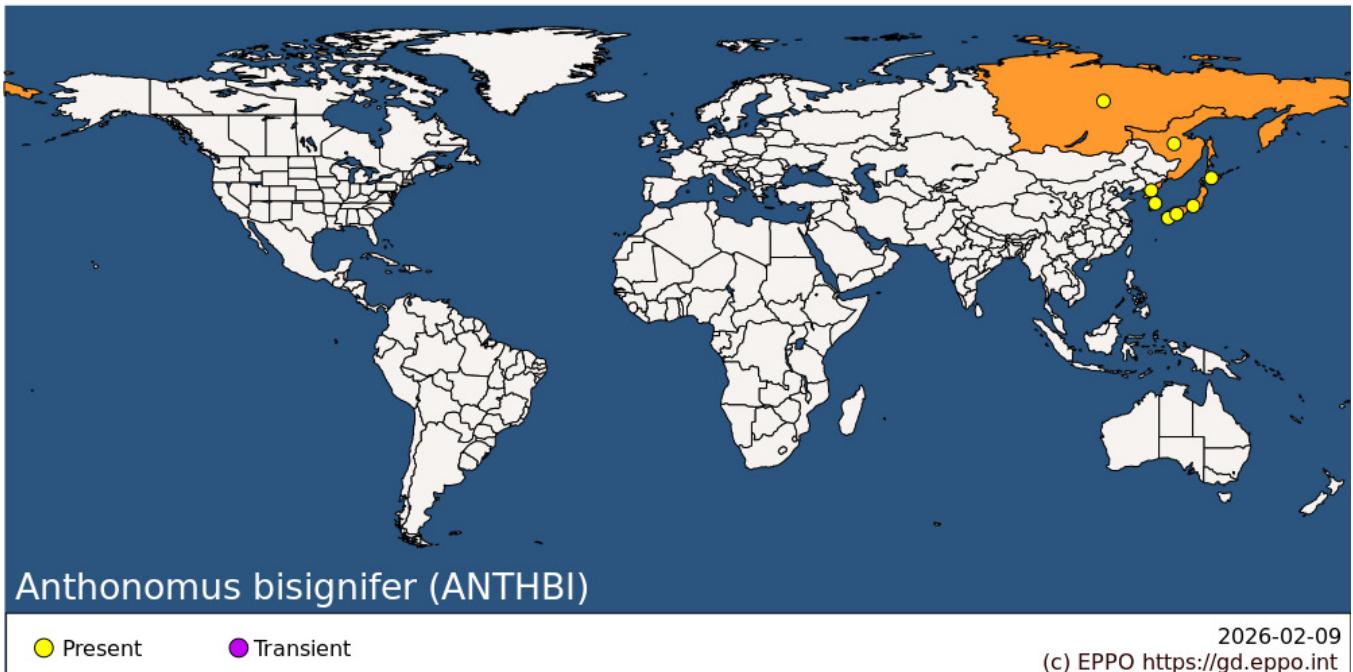
HOSTS

Strawberries are the main economically important host crop. *A. bisignifer* has also been recorded on *Rubus* and on wild roses. Within the EPPO region, strawberries, which are widely grown, would be the principal crop at risk. Kojima and Morimoto (1994) note that damage to strawberry is negligible in modern horticultural practices. They further state it is common on *Rosa* spp., *Rubus* spp. and some other Rosaceae and is often injurious to garden roses. Some specimens were captured on *Rosa rugosa* along with *Anthonomus terreus* Gyllenhal in Hokkaido.

Host list: *Fragaria x ananassa*, *Rosa*, *Rubus*

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

This species is known from Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, Kyushu, Tsushima), Kurils, Sakhalin, the Korean peninsula, and Russian (Siberia, Far East).



EPPO Region: Russian Federation (Eastern Siberia, Far East)

Asia: Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku), Korea, Democratic People's Republic of, Korea, Republic of

BIOLOGY

Anthonomus bisignifer has one generation a year. In Sendai, Japan, *A. bisignifer* females emerge from hibernation in late April, mate and begin egg laying (Katô, 1936). Further south in the region of Nara, southern Honshu, adults emerge from overwintering between late March and early April (Imura, 2011). The female lays eggs in holes excavated in the flower buds of strawberries. The female then bites through the stalk a few millimetres below the bud. Most of the flower buds fall off, but a few remain hanging on the plants. The eggs are laid, mostly during the day, and egg laying reaches a peak in mid- to late-May in Sendai. The number of eggs laid increases with air and soil surface temperature and hours of sunshine, being highest when sunshine approaches 12 h and the temperature is above 20°C, but many eggs are laid even when the temperature is around 12°C (Katô, 1936; 1937). About 77 eggs are laid per female (Kinoshita & Shinkai, 1926). The durations of the immature stages are: egg 4-9 days, larva 10-50 days, pupa 4-9 days (Kinoshita & Shinkai, 1926). The adults do not mate before hibernation (Kinoshita & Shinkai, 1926).

The weevils usually rest at night and under cool cloudy conditions by day, but start to crawl in the field at an air temperature of 7.2°C, combined with a black bulb temperature of 8.4°C. In the laboratory under low radiation conditions, the low temperature limit is around 10°C. Flight begins at around 23°C in the laboratory and in the field at 18°C, combined with a black bulb temperature of about 23°C (Katô, 1938a, b).

It is not known where the adults overwinter. However, EFSA (2017) note that it is possible overwintering occurs under plant debris within fields and in soil around host plants. In addition, adults may over winter in vegetation adjacent to field boundaries.

DETECTION AND IDENTIFICATION

Symptoms

The most obvious symptoms of damage are partially severed buds hanging from the plants and severed buds on the ground (Katô, 1936).

Morphology

Eggs

0.59 mm long, 0.41 mm wide (Iwata, 1966).

Larva

The larva is undescribed but is probably similar to that of *Anthonomus rubi* Herbst described by Scherf (1964). Lee & Morimoto (1988) gave a key to the genera of weevils larvae of Japan including *Anthonomus*.

Pupa

The pupa is undescribed but is probably similar to that of *A. rubi* illustrated by Scherf (1964).

Adult

Length 2.5-4.0 mm; rostrum with very fine dorsal median keel; head and pronotum dark-brown or black; pronotum narrowed anteriorly, usually with median and two lateral bands of whitish elongate scales, remainder sparsely covered with similarly shaped brownish scales; scutellum small, densely covered with whitish scales; elytra pale-brown to dark red-brown, darker triangular lateral area demarcated by margin of dense whitish elongate scales, this triangle-shaped area extending from stria 2 to elytral margin in posterior half of elytra and extending forwards as broad margin to elytral base; entire surface with sparse whitish elongate scales; legs pale-brown, sometimes apical half to two-thirds of femora dark-brown; anterior femora bearing single small tooth, much shorter than width of femur; tibiae slender; ventrally entirely dark-brown or black, moderately densely covered with elongate whitish scales. Kôno (1939) and Kojima and Morimoto (1994) gave keys to the *Anthonomus* species of Japan. Katô (1938c) described the local variation in morphometrics of the adults. Kojima and Morimoto (1994) gives a comprehensive description of the adult. For a colour figure of the adult, see Hayashi *et al.* (1984). Kojima and Morimoto (1994) note that some specimens from the northern part of Japan are smaller in size and often darker in colour.

This species is closely related to *A. signatus* (Say) from North America, but the body of *A. bisignifer* is slender and the fifth and sixth segments of the antenna 1 funicle are almost as long as broad, whereas in *A. signatus* these segments are clearly broader than they are long (Kojima and Morimoto, 1994).

Detection and inspection methods

The most obvious symptoms of damage are partially severed buds hanging from the plants and severed buds on the ground (Katô, 1936). When inspecting plants, inspectors should look for adults and inspect severed buds, which may contain eggs, larvae or pupae.

The EPPO Standard PM 3/83 *Fragaria plants for planting- inspection of places of production* (EPPO, 2017) and EPPO Standard PM 3/73 *Consignment inspection of Fragaria plants for planting* (EPPO, 2008) provide a detailed procedure for inspection of place of production and consignments of *Fragaria* plants for planting.

PATHWAYS FOR MOVEMENT

Anthonomus bisignifer is most likely to be transported as a casual contaminant of planting material or fresh fruit or in the horticulture industry through movement of cultivated rose plants for planting.

There is no information on the dispersal rate of *A. bisignifer*. EFSA (2017) note that its dispersal ability is probably similar to that of *A. signatus* where adults are reported to rarely fly or walk more than 10 m in search of food or oviposition sites.

PEST SIGNIFICANCE

Economic impact

Anthonomus bisignifer has been included in lists of the important pests of agricultural crops in Japan (Shiraki, 1952; Anon., 1968). Imura (2011) reported damage to strawberry in 2006 in Nara Prefecture (Honshu, Japan). Studies showed variable amounts of damage including impacts on strawberry plants grown within protected conditions. Up to 50 % of strawberry plants were reported to be attacked (Imura, 2011). However, with the exception of Imura (2011), there is a complete lack of publications on any aspect of pest status within the past decades. Modern horticultural practices may have an impact on the weevil and chemical control targeted at other pest species may have a negative impact on the weevil.

Control

There is no published information on the control of this weevil. However, insecticides successfully used against *A. rubi* in Europe would probably be effective. Martin (1965) recommended the use of the chlorinated hydrocarbon, tetrachlorodiphenylethane as a spray, applied as soon as the first damage is seen. Scopes & Stables (1989) recommended the application of carbaryl or gamma-HCH. Pokozii & Gadzalo (1988) found that the most effective pyrethroids against *A. rubi* were permethrin, cypermethrin, fenvalerate and deltamethrin.

Little is known regarding natural control agents. Yasumatsu & Watanabe (1964) listed *Catolaccus endonis* (Hymenoptera: Pteromalidae) as a parasite of this weevil in Hokkaido, Japan.

Phytosanitary risk

There is the potential of damage to strawberry production and other fruit production (e.g. fruit from *Rubus* species), and/or rose cultivation in the EPPO region. However, as already stated, the potential for damage is not clear under modern cultivation practices.

PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES

For plants for planting of strawberries, *Rubus* or *Rosa* from countries where *A. bisignifer* occurs, it would be sufficient to require that host plants are sourced from a pest free area or pest free production site. Ensuring host plants are free from soil or plant debris can reduce the risk of entry for all life stages of the pest.

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Datasheet history

This datasheet was first published in 1997 in the second edition of 'Quarantine Pests for Europe', and revised in 2023. It is now maintained in an electronic format in the EPPO Global Database. The sections on 'Identity', 'Hosts', and 'Geographical distribution' are automatically updated from the database. For other sections, the date of last revision is indicated on the right.

CABI/EPPO (1997) *Quarantine Pests for Europe (2nd edition)*. CABI, Wallingford (GB).



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