



Scientific Panel on Plant Health

Minutes of the 108th Plenary meeting

Held on 12 December 2022

EFSA, Parma,

(Agreed on 27 February 2023)

Participants

■ Panel Members

Claude BRAGARD (Chair), Paula BAPTISTA, Elisavet CHATZIVASSILIOU, Francesco DI SERIO, Paolo GONTHIER, Josep JAQUES, Alan MACLEOD, Christer MAGNUSSON, Panagiotis MILONAS, Juan NAVAS-CORTES, Stephen PARNELL, Roel POTTING, Hans-Hermann THULKE, Antonio VICENT CIVERA, Jonathan YUEN, Lucia ZAPPALÀ

■ Hearing Experts

Camille PICARD (EPPO),

European Commission

Leonard SHUMBE (EC DG SANTE), Francoise MUNAUT (SANTE), Panagiota MYLONA (SANTE)

- **EFSA PLANTS** Unit: Alexia ANTONIOU, Silvia BONANNO, Matteo CROTTA, Ewelina CZWIENCZEK, Alice DELBIANCO, Spyridoula DIMITROPOULOU, Ciro GARDI, Alex GOBBI, Agata KACZMAREK, Paraskevi KARIAMPA, Virag KERTESZ, Julia LOPEZ MERCADAL, Marco PAUTASSO, Eugenio ROSSI, Giuseppe STANCANELLI, Franz STREISSL, Emanuela TACCI

MESE Unit: Olaf MOSBACH-SCHULZ

EFSA Art. 36 Grants

Alzbeta MIKULOVA (Università di Padova, Italy)

EFSA Procurement

Oresteia SFYRA (Greece)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from **Annemarie JUSTESEN, Philippe REIGNAULT, Emilio STEFANI, Wopke VAN DER WERF**

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Declarations of Interest Scientific Panel Members

Nothing to declare

4. Scientific outputs submitted for discussion and possible adoption/endorsement

4.1. Scientific opinion on the efficacy of a postharvest treatment aiming at eradication of all developmental stages of *Tecia solanivora* in ware potatoes

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health prepared a scientific opinion on the efficacy of a postharvest treatment aiming at eradication of all developmental stages of *Tecia solanivora* in ware potatoes.

The European Commission requested the EFSA Panel on Plant Health to prepare and deliver a scientific opinion on the efficacy of a postharvest treatment aiming to eradicate ~~all~~ developmental stages of Guatemalan potato tuber moth *Tecia solanivora* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) in ware potatoes. The Panel evaluated the scientific publication describing the elevated CO₂ treatment, which was defined as: 10 day exposure to 30% CO₂, 20% O₂, and 50% N₂ in controlled atmosphere at 17°C on the variety Negra Yema de Huevo (Papas Antiguas de Canarias, PDO potatoes, *Solanum chaucha*). In the scientific publication the treatment was applied under semi-commercial and commercial conditions on artificially and field infested tubers.

The effect of the pest developmental stage on the treatment efficacy was investigated with artificial infestation of potato tubers with eggs, neonate and 2nd instar larvae. Pupae and adults were placed in separate containers during the treatment. However, the 3rd and 4th larval instars were not investigated. Further limitations were the sample size in the experiments, the mortality rate in the control group and the unknown level of infestation of the naturally infested potato tubers. It was not possible to evaluate the degree of pest freedom due to incomplete data on the conditions of production, i.e., the infestation level in the field.

The Panel was able to conclude that although no surviving insects were observed in the performed experiments, the statistical evaluation of the presented results from the commercial trial indicate, that it cannot be excluded that insects would survive. For ~~example~~ based on the data provided the 95% confidence interval of the survival rate for eggs was ~~:~~ 0% - 0.453%.

4.2. Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation on *Nipaecoccus viridis*

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Nipaecoccus viridis* (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Pseudococcidae), the spherical scale, for the EU. It is

of Asian origin and occurs widely in southern Asia, Africa, and tropical Australia. It has been introduced to a few countries in the Americas. In the Mediterranean basin it is found in Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Syria and Türkiye, where it is limited to the Marmara region. It has not been reported within the EU. It is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. It reproduces sexually, has three generations each year in citrus orchards in South Africa, and all stages can overwinter. First instar nymphs may move to neighbouring plants by crawling or be passively dispersed by wind or hitchhiking on clothing, equipment or animals. It is highly polyphagous, feeding on plants in 115 genera and 46 families. It is an important pest of citrus (*Citrus* spp.), cotton (*Gossypium* spp.), mango (*Mangifera indica*), avocado (*Persea americana*) and stored potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum*). It also feeds on a wide range of other fruit (apple *Malus domestica*, olive *Olea europaea*, pear *Pyrus communis* and grape *Vitis vinifera*) and vegetable crops (tomato *Solanum lycopersicum*), and ornamental plants (roses, *Rosa* spp.) that are widely grown in the EU. Plants for planting, fruits, vegetables, and cut flowers are the main potential pathways for entry of *N. viridis* into the EU. Climatic conditions and availability of host plants in southern parts of the EU where there are few days of frost each year would likely allow this species to successfully establish and spread. Reductions in yield and quality of cultivated hosts including avocado, citrus, cotton and mango is anticipated if establishment occurs. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and spread. *N. viridis* meets the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted on 12 December 2022.

4.3. Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation on *Resseliella maxima*

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of *Resseliella maxima* (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae), the soybean gall midge, for the EU. This midge was first described in 2018 and is widespread in northwestern United States. It is not listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. Larvae feed on and develop in soybean (*Glycine max*, Fabaceae), and possibly in two other Fabaceae, sweet clover (*Melilotus officinalis*) and alfalfa/ lucerne (*Medicago sativa*). Feeding damage results in dark brown or black areas on the stems which become weak and can break near the soil; heavy infestations can cause plant death. *R. maxima* adults live only a few days and adult females lay eggs within 24 hours after emergence. Larvae of *R. maxima* overwinter in the soil as third instars in silken cocoons. The main natural dispersal stage is the adult, which can fly. Freshly cut host plants for animal feed contaminated with larvae provide a potential pathway for entry into the EU. However, there is great uncertainty as to whether such plants are imported from USA states where *R. maxima* occurs. Climatic conditions and host availability in central-western EU MS are favourable for outdoor establishment. Phytosanitary measures are available to reduce the likelihood of entry and spread. Except for the uncertainty concerning the likelihood of entry, *R. maxima* satisfies the other criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for it to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest.

The opinion was adopted on 12 December 2022.

6. Feedback from Scientific Panel including their Working Groups, Scientific Committee, EFSA and European Commission

6.1. Feedback from EFSA: Update on EFSA art 36: Hotspot analysis project (HOPPI)

This point has been moved to another PLH plenary

6.2. Update on the International Conference on Plant Pathology ICPP2023 in Lyon (FR) and EFSA participation

On update on the ICPP2023 conference in Lyon foreseen for next year was given to the Panel.

7. Any Other Business

Scientific opinion on Pest categorisation of *Lasiodiplodia pseudotheobromae*

Additional information was provided to the working group after the adoption of the opinion on *L. pseudotheobromae*. In line with the information received, the working group proposed changing the uncertainty on the distribution of the pest in the EU into a key uncertainty. The new text was adopted by the panel.