



Official Pest Report BELGIUM

Situation of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* in Belgium

Date: 30/04/2010

Report number: BE - 3/1

Status of report: final

Name of pest: *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* Le Conte

Status of pest: Absent: pest eradicated

Host(s) or article(s) concerned: Plants of *Zea mays*

Geographical distribution: Not present in Belgium

Nature of immediate or potential danger, or other reason for reporting:

Regulated harmful organism for Belgium (Annex I, Part A, Section II of the Royal Decree of 10/08/2005 concerning measures against organisms harmful to plants and plant products; amended by Ministerial Decree of 19/03/2009) and the European Community (Annex I, Part A, Section II of Directive 2000/29/EC; amended according to Directive 2009/7/EC, and EU emergency measures 2003/766/EC)

Short description or summary:

Diabrotica virgifera virgifera was found for the first time in Belgium in 2003. Beetles were captured in the direct neighbourhood of the national airport Zaventem and the military airport Melsbroek near the capital Brussels. In total 69 beetles were captured in 2003 in 23 traps on 17 maize parcels. Three focus zones and one surrounding safety zone was established in 2003.

In 2004, two additional focus zones were demarcated; the safety zone had to be enlarged. In total 7 beetles were captured in 2004 on 5 maize parcels. Those parcels were situated in the demarcated safety zone of 2003 and 4 of the 5 maize parcels were cultivated in monoculture.

There were no captures in 2005. However, in 2005 several beetles were captured in the Netherlands next to the frontier with Belgium. A part of the safety zone related to this outbreak in the Netherlands was demarcated in Belgium. The area is an area with intensive maize monoculture.

The implemented control measures were those as laid down in Commission Decision 2003/766/EC of 24 October 2003 on emergency measures to prevent the spread within the Community of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte. Since 2004, measures imposed were even more stringent as foreseen in the Commission Decision as a crop rotation system where maize can only be grown once in three consecutive years was compulsory not only in the focus zones but also in the safety zones. As from 2005, the crop cultivated in the year preceding the year of capture was taken into account.

In 2006, a total of 691 pheromone traps of the type PALs with floral bait were deployed, of which 361 for the national survey, 289 in demarcated areas and 41 in buffer zones. The national survey was carried out from the first of July until the first of October. The traps were inspected once a fortnight and pheromone was replaced once every 4 weeks. No beetles were captured in 2006. That allows us to consider the 2004 outbreaks as eradicated.

In 2007, only one demarcated area, at the border of the Netherlands, was left. A total of 512 pheromone traps with floral bait were deployed, of which 416 for the national survey and 96 in the demarcated area. Traps were deployed from the first of July until the first of October, inspected once a fortnight, and pheromone was replaced once every 4 weeks. There were no findings in 2007.

In 2008, a total of 467 pheromone traps were deployed from 1st July to 1st October in risky areas. Since the last outbreak of *Diabrotica* dated from 2004 in Belgium and from 2005 in the Netherlands close to the frontier, there were no demarcated focus and safety zones left. Nevertheless, a reinforced monitoring of the former demarcated zones in Zaventem and Limburg was included in the national survey. Traps of the type PALs with floral bait and of the type PAL with sexpheromones were used. As in the previous monitoring campaigns, the traps were inspected once a fortnight, and pheromone was replaced once every 4 weeks. For the third consecutive year, there were no findings in 2008.

In 2009, a monitoring program comparable to this in 2008 was carried out. A total of 423 pheromone traps were deployed for monitoring in the risky areas and also in the former demarcated zones. No beetles were captured. A similar monitoring activity is foreseen in 2010.

Therefore, Belgium is considered to be free from *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*. Hence, Commission Decision 2006/564/EC and Commission Decision 2008/644/EC amending Commission Decision 2003/766/EC as well as Commission recommendation 2006/565/EC of 11 August 2006 on containment programmes to limit further spread of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte in Community areas where its presence is confirmed are not relevant in Belgium at this moment.

In case new findings would occur in the future, an emergency plan was drawn up to ensure a quick and adequate reaction to achieve total eradication. This is available (Dutch/French) on the website of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC).

Additional link: http://www.afsca.be/sp/pv_phyto/chry-mais_fr.asp (only in French/Dutch)

Additional file: National legislation of 14 April 2005: Ministerial decree of 14/05/2005 concerning temporary emergency measures against the western corn rootworm. *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte (implementation of Commission Decision 2003/766/EC) (Only in French/Dutch).

References: EPPO Diagnostic protocol for *Diabrotica virgifera* PM7/36(1)