



## August 2012 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

**National Plant Protection Organization**  
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### First outbreak of *Anthonomus eugenii* (Pepper Weevil) on *Capsicum annuum* (Bell pepper) fruit production in The Netherlands

#### Introduction

This report concerns the first outbreak of *Anthonomus eugenii* in the Netherlands on *Capsicum annuum* fruit production facilities in the Westland greenhouse area. The organism is not listed as a harmful organism in the EU directive 2000/29/EC but is listed on the EPPO A1 list since 1995. On July 19 2012, the owner of a fruit production greenhouse facility of bell pepper informed the NPPO of unusual damage in his crop. Following a specific surveillance signs of the pest were observed in three nearby bell pepper greenhouse facilities. Phytosanitary measures are aimed at eradication. The possible source of the introduction into the Netherlands is unknown, but tracking and tracing is ongoing.

Reason for reporting: First report of a new pest.

Identity of the pest: *Anthonomus eugenii* Cano (Pepper weevil)  
Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Curculioninae, Anthonomini

Categorization of the pest EPPO A1 (1995)

Location: 4 greenhouses in Westland greenhouse area. Since the infested greenhouses are all located within the direct vicinity of each other, it is considered as one single outbreak originating from the same unknown source.

**Pest status: Transient - Isolated outbreak, under eradication.**

#### Pest significance

##### Date of finding

The first finding of the weevil was reported by a grower on 19 July 2012, and identified as *Anthonomus eugenii* by the Netherlands Plant Protection Organization on 20 July 2012. The other three findings were detected in August based on reports of growers of neighbouring production facilities. All findings have been detected in greenhouses.

##### Detection and identification

On 19 July 2012, a bell pepper grower informed the National Plant Protection Organization about observations of a population of an unknown harmful insect and damaged fruit. On 20 July 2012, specialists identified the pest as *Anthonomus eugenii*, pepper weevil. Identification was confirmed both visually and with DNA analysis.

##### Impact

In total four greenhouse facilities for the production of bell pepper fruits were found infested. For three companies more extensive damage was observed, consisting of smaller and prematurely aborted fruits in circular spots affecting plants in a range of up to 4,000 square

meters. In one facility, only single larvae and weevils were found without significant damage to the crop. Figure 1 shows a picture of recently infected fruit, whereby the weevil entered at the bottom.



Figure 1: affected fruit

#### Origin of the pest

The pest is not known to occur in the EU. Most likely, the pest was introduced with imported *Capsicum* fruit from a country where the pest occurs.

#### **Phytosanitary Measures**

Phytosanitary measures are aimed at eradication. In order to prevent further spread measures include application of pesticides, destruction and secured removal of the crop (and growth medium) at all four affected facilities. Specific surveillance in a range of one km surrounding affected facilities, as well as a specific surveillance of bell pepper growers throughout the Netherlands have been completed not resulting in further findings.

#### **References:**

- NPPO The Netherlands
- EPPO, 1995. Data sheets on Quarantine Pests, *Anthonomus eugenii*, [www.EPPO.org](http://www.EPPO.org)