Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Economic Affairs

March 2016 PEST Report - THE NETHERLANDS

National Plant Protection Organization
POBox 9102
6700 HC Wageningen
The Netherlands

1.1 First finding of *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* in plants for planting of *Aloe vera* in a production greenhouse.

1.2 Executive summary

This report concerns a finding of *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* in plants for planting of *Aloe vera* in a production greenhouse, in the Netherlands in October 2015.
The origin of the finding is unknown. The pest has been reported in South Africa and has been introduced in Portugal in 2012. *Aloe* spp. are commonly cultivated in greenhouses in the Netherlands. Until the recent finding in the Netherlands, reports of occurrence of *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* in greenhouses are lacking. It is, however, still uncertain if the species can survive in a commercial greenhouse throughout the year. Outdoors, Aloaceae cannot survive winter in the Netherlands. A survey is planned for 2017 to obtain more information on the possible distribution.
Panchaetothripinae are as a rule of less importance in international trade and no vectors of tospoviruses are known in this subfamily.
The organism is not listed as a harmful organism in the EU directive 2000/29/EC and is not listed on the EPPO A1 or A2 list.
Identity of the pest (scientific name) *Hercinothrips dimidiatus* Hood, 1937
Thysanoptera (thrips): Thripidae*:* Panchaetothripinae
Categorization of the pest (none)
Location**:** Muncipality Lansingerland
Reason of the notification: First report
How the pest was found; (6) information submitted by professional operator
Information on the infested area, severity and source of the outbreak – Plants of *Aloe vera* at one grower.
Official phytosanitary measures - Communication to stakeholders and inclusion in the survey programme 2017.

4. Reason of the notification and pest status
4.1 Select: (1) First presence of the harmful organism - First report

4.4 Current Pest status
(12) Other: Transient – non actionable in view of earlier record in Portugal and uncertainty on the origin of the finding. A specific surveillance will be completed in 2016.

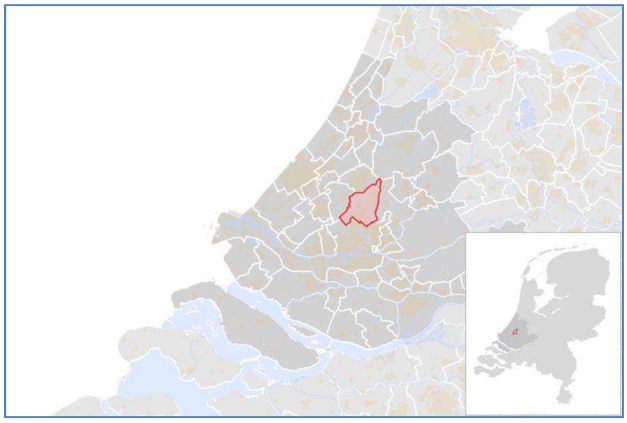
4.3 Previous Pest status
(8) Absent: no pest records

1.3 Legal provisions – select (or include in cover letter)

(2) full notification

3. Location of presence of harmful organism

3.1. Municipality: Lansingerland



5. Information relating to the finding.

5.1 How the harmful organism was found.

(6) information submitted by professional operators, laboratories or other persons

5.2 Date of finding.

In October 2015 a professional operator detected infested plants which were reported to an independent laboratory.

(5.3) On 7 October a sample (3 females and 18 larvae) in ethanol were provided to the National Reference Centre for identification. The thrips were found on a 'succulent' by an unknown grower. On 15 October two infested *Aloe vera* plants, originating from the same grower, were provided by the independent laboratory. Thrips damage was obvious and 24 females were found on the plants.

5.4 the name and the address of the laboratory

NPPO – The Netherlands
National Reference Centre
Ir. A.T.C. (Anton) van der Sommen (a.t.c.vandersommen@nvwa.nl)
Tel: +31 88 223 2486
P.O.Box 9102
6700 HC Wageningen - The Netherlands

5.5 Diagnostic method

Hercinothrips dimidiatus was identified based on the key of Wilson (1975) for the subfamily Panchaetothripinae. Only female larvae and adult females were found, similar to the findings in Portugal, where no males were found either (Matteus & al, 2015). The identification was performed morphologically with slide prepared adult specimens. Damage to the plants was also similar to the record in Portugal (Mateus & al. (2015).

Figure 1: Part of small *Aloe vera* plant with female (arrow) and feeding damage

Figure 2: Larva I and female in microscopic slide

5.6 Date of official confirmation of the harmful organism's identity
Final confirmation of the identity by the National Reference Center took place on 19 October 2015.

6. Information related to the area, severity of the finding and source of the finding

6.1. Size and delimitation of the infested area.
(2) number of infested plants (pieces): unknown.
6.2. Characteristics of the infested area and its vicinity.
(3) Physically closed conditions
(3.1) Greenhouse; plants for planting.

6.3. Host plants in the infested area and its vicinity.
Unknown

6.4. Infested plant(s), plant product(s) and other object(s). Indication of the scientific name of the infested host plant(s).
Aloe vera

6.6. Severity of the outbreak. Description of the current extent of infestation, symptoms and the damage caused, and, where appropriate, inclusion of forecasts as soon as this information is available.
Unknown

6.7. Source of the outbreak.
The origin of the finding is unknown.

7. Official phytosanitary measures

7.1. Adoption of official phytosanitary measures.
(4) Decision on whether official phytosanitary measures will be taken is pending.
Communication to stakeholders and inclusion in the survey programme 2016.

8. Pest risk analysis/assessment.

Indication of the following options: (3) Preliminary pest risk analysis exists.

9. Links to relevant websites, other sources of information.

References:

NPPO The Netherlands
Mateus C, Franco JC, Caetano MF, Silva, EB da, Ramos AP, Figueiredo E & Mound LA (2015) Hercinothrips dimidiatus Hood (Thysanoptera: Thripidae), a new pest of Aloe arborescens Miller in Europe. Phytoparasitica 10/2015; DOI: 10.1007/s12600-015-0492-z. http://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007%252Fs12600-015-0492-z.pdf [last access 23-10-2015]
Wilson TH (1975) A monograph of the subfamily Panchaetothripinae (Thysanoptera: Thripidae). Memoirs of the american Enotomological Institute 23: 1-354.