

Present Situation of *Anoplophora malasiaca* Thomson Occurring in Italy

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Abstract

The enormous increase in the international trade of goods and plants has also increased the probability that pests and pathogens can spread from their native habitats to new countries throughout the world. This fact is demonstrated in the literature and is of increasing concern to regulatory officials. Because of the difficulty associated with conducting phytosanitary inspections at borders and at ports of entry, the Phytosanitary Service of Regione Lombardia provided financial support for research to develop a post-entry survey program that addresses “New pest identification and monitoring”. This program was initiated in 2000 and has allowed us to identify seven new pests, some of which are new introductions to Italy and Europe. The most important pest discovered was *Anoplophora malasiaca* which is included on a quarantine list for Europe. Its presence represents a serious threat for both the ornamental nursery industry and for native tree species.

The first detection of this pest occurred in a nursery located in Parabiago, in the vicinity of Milan, which trades with China mainly for importation of bonsai. During inspections carried out over a quarantine period of three months by the Phytosanitary Service, devoted mainly to detect and identify parasitic nematodes, other pests and pathogens, we observed exit holes made by adults of *A. malasiaca* on *Malus cerasifera* bonsai. After the first detection, a specific survey program was initiated which consisted of setting wire mesh traps in the ornamental nursery fields and inspecting six other nurseries to look for the damage and presence of this pest. *A. malasiaca* was collected only in the Parabiago nursery and in the immediate vicinity on *Acer* spp., *Fagus sylvatica*, *Platanus acerifolia*, *Carpinus betulus*, *Quercus robur*, *Aesculus hyppocastanum*, *Lagestroemia indica* and *Zizyphus sativa*, most of which are species commonly used for plantings in gardens and parks.

This presentation provides information on the current situation and distribution of *A. malasiaca* in Lombardy and provides initial data about the life cycle and emergence period of adults. Logs, both with and without exit holes, were dissected to destroy infested material and to provide us with more information on the biology and damage associated with this pest. Preliminary results of the survey program indicate that dispersal of *A. malasiaca* is rather limited however more investigations are needed, mainly to determine its occurrence on native ornamental species. Phytosanitary measures will be implemented in cooperation with Regional and National Phytosanitary Services after additional studies are conducted on the biology and distribution of this pest and we determine the effectiveness of chemical control techniques. Extension service and outreach activities should be improved in order to enhance the education and involvement of growers and citizens about the significance of this pest; this will be facilitated by publication of technical sheets and bulletins and their placement on the Lombardy Agricultural Department web site.