Pest categorisation of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*

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Abstract

The EFSA Panel on Plant Health performed a pest categorisation of the beetle *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) for the EU. This species occurs in western USA and Mexico. Adults oviposit on annual plants in the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae, Polygonaceae and Solanaceae. Adults feed on tender plant parts in hosts in 30 additional botanical families. Preimaginal development takes place on the roots of the host plant, where larvae feed and pupate. The insect completes one to three generations per year depending on temperature. Overwintering adults (no diapause) may abandon crops to seek shelter in wild vegetation and reinvade crops in spring. *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is not known to occur in the EU and is regulated in Annex IIA of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072. This species is a competent vector of squash mosaic virus, a pathogen already present and not regulated in the EU. Within Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072, potential entry pathways for *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*, such as Poaceae and Solanaceae plants for planting with foliage and soil/growing medium, and soil/growing media by themselves can be considered as closed. However, plants for planting of the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae and Polygonaceae are not specifically regulated. Should *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* arrive in the EU, climatic conditions and availability of susceptible hosts provide conditions suitable for establishment and further spread. Economic impact is anticipated. *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. This species does not meet the criteria of being present in the EU nor plants for planting being the main pathway for spread for it to be regarded as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest.

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**Keywords:** European Union, pest risk, plant health, plant pest, quarantine, western spotted cucumber beetle, squash mosaic virus

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Table of contents

Abstract ................................................................................................................................................... 1
1. Introduction ................................................................................................................................4
1.1. Background and Terms of Reference as provided by the requestor .................................................. 4
1.1.1. Background ............................................................................................................................... 4
1.1.2. Terms of reference ...................................................................................................................... 4
1.1.2.1. Terms of Reference: Appendix 1 .............................................................................................. 5
1.1.2.2. Terms of Reference: Appendix 2 .............................................................................................. 6
1.1.2.3. Terms of Reference: Appendix 3 .............................................................................................. 7
1.2. Interpretation of the Terms of Reference .................................................................................... 8
2. Data and methodologies .............................................................................................................. 8
2.1. Data ........................................................................................................................................... 8
2.1.1. Literature search ......................................................................................................................... 8
2.1.2. Database search .......................................................................................................................... 9
2.2. Methodologies ............................................................................................................................ 9
3. Pest categorisation ...................................................................................................................... 11
3.1. Identity and biology of the pest ................................................................................................. 11
3.1.1. Identity and taxonomy ................................................................................................................. 11
3.1.2. Biology of the pest ....................................................................................................................... 11
3.1.3. Intraspecific diversity .................................................................................................................. 11
3.1.4. Detection and identification of the pest ..................................................................................... 12
3.2. Pest distribution ........................................................................................................................ 12
3.2.1. Pest distribution outside the EU ............................................................................................... 12
3.2.2. Pest distribution in the EU ......................................................................................................... 13
3.3. Regulatory status ....................................................................................................................... 13
3.3.1. Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072 ........................................................................ 13
3.3.2. Legislation addressing the hosts of Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata .................... 17
3.3.3. Legislation addressing the organisms vectored by Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata (Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072) ................................................................. 17
3.4. Entry, establishment and spread in the EU ................................................................................... 17
3.4.1. Host range ................................................................................................................................. 17
3.4.2. Entry ....................................................................................................................................... 18
3.4.3. Establishment ............................................................................................................................ 19
3.4.3.1. EU distribution of main host plants .......................................................................................... 19
3.4.3.2. Climatic conditions affecting establishment ............................................................................ 19
3.4.4. Spread ................................................................................................................................... 20
3.5. Impacts ...................................................................................................................................... 20
3.6. Availability and limits of mitigation measures ............................................................................. 21
3.6.1. Identification of additional measures ........................................................................................ 21
3.6.1.1. Additional control measures ................................................................................................... 21
3.6.1.2. Additional supporting measures ............................................................................................. 22
3.6.1.3. Biological or technical factors limiting the effectiveness of measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of the pest ................................................................................................. 22
3.6.1.4. Biological or technical factors limiting the ability to prevent the presence of the pest on plants for planting ......................................................................................................................... 22
3.7. Uncertainty ................................................................................................................................ 22
4. Conclusions .................................................................................................................................. 22
References ......................................................................................................................................... 23
Abbreviations ..................................................................................................................................... 25
Glossary ................................................................................................................................................ 25
1. Introduction

1.1. Background and Terms of Reference as provided by the requestor

1.1.1. Background

Council Directive 2000/29/EC\(^1\) on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community established the previous European Union plant health regime. The Directive laid down the phytosanitary provisions and the control checks to be carried out at the place of origin on plants and plant products destined for the Union or to be moved within the Union. In the Directive’s 2000/29/EC annexes, the list of harmful organisms (pests) whose introduction into or spread within the Union was prohibited, was detailed together with specific requirements for import or internal movement.

Following the evaluation of the plant health regime, the new basic plant health law, Regulation (EU) 2016/2031\(^2\) on protective measures against pests of plants, was adopted on 26 October 2016 and applied from 14 December 2019 onwards, repealing Directive 2000/29/EC. In line with the principles of the above mentioned legislation and the follow-up work of the secondary legislation for the listing of EU regulated pests, EFSA is requested to provide pest categorisations of the harmful organisms included in the annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC, in the cases where recent pest risk assessment/pest categorisation is not available.

1.1.2. Terms of reference

EFSA is requested, pursuant to Article 22(5.b) and Article 29(1) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002,\(^3\) to provide scientific opinion in the field of plant health.

EFSA is requested to prepare and deliver a pest categorisation (step 1 analysis) for each of the regulated pests included in the appendices of the annex to this mandate. The methodology and template of pest categorisation have already been developed in past mandates for the organisms listed in Annex II Part A Section II of Directive 2000/29/EC. The same methodology and outcome is expected for this work as well.

The list of the harmful organisms included in the annex to this mandate comprises 133 harmful organisms or groups. A pest categorisation is expected for these 133 pests or groups and the delivery of the work would be stepwise at regular intervals through the year as detailed below. First priority covers the harmful organisms included in Appendix 1, comprising pests from Annex II Part A Section I and Annex II Part B of Directive 2000/29/EC. The delivery of all pest categorisations for the pests included in Appendix 1 is June 2018. The second priority is the pests included in Appendix 2, comprising the group of Cicadellidae (non-EU) known to be vector of Pierce’s disease (caused by Xylella fastidiosa), the group of Tephritidae (non-EU), the group of potato viruses and virus-like organisms, the group of viruses and virus-like organisms of Cydonia Mill., Fragaria L., Malus Mill., Prunus L., Pyrus L., Ribes L., Rubus L. and Vitis L., and the group of Margarodes (non-EU species). The delivery of all pest categorisations for the pests included in Appendix 2 is end 2019. The pests included in Appendix 3 cover pests of Annex I part A section I and all pest categorisations should be delivered by end 2020.

For the above mentioned groups, each covering a large number of pests, the pest categorisation will be performed for the group and not the individual harmful organisms listed under “such as” notation in the Annexes of the Directive 2000/29/EC. The criteria to be taken particularly under consideration for these cases, is the analysis of host pest combination, investigation of pathways, the damages occurring and the relevant impact.

Finally, as indicated in the text above, all references to ‘non-European’ should be avoided and replaced by ‘non-EU’ and refer to all territories with exception of the Union territories as defined in Article 1 point 3 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031.

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\(^1\) Council Directive 2000/29/EC of 8 May 2000 on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community. OJ L 169/1, 10.7.2000, p. 1–112.

\(^2\) Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants. OJ L 317, 23.11.2016, p. 4–104.

\(^3\) Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety. OJ L 31/1, 1.2.2002, p. 1–24.
1.1.2.1. Terms of Reference: Appendix 1

List of harmful organisms for which pest categorisation is requested. The list below follows the annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC.

**Annex IIAI**

(a) Insects, mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

- Aleurocanthus spp.
- Anthonomus bisignifer (Schenkling)
- Anthonomus signatus (Say)
- Aschistonyx eppoi Ínouye
- Carposina niponensis Walsingham
- Enarmonia packardi (Zeller)
- Enarmonia prunivora Walsh
- Grapholita inopinata Heinrich
- Hisshomonus phycitis
- Leucaspis japonica Ckll.
- Listronotus bonariensis (Kuschel)

(b) Bacteria

- Citrus variegated chlorosis
- Erwinia stewartii (Smith) Dye

(c) Fungi

- Alternaria alternata (Fr.) Keissler (non-EU pathogenic isolates)
- Anisogramma anomala (Peck) E. Müller
- Apiosporina morbosa (Schwein.) v. Arx
- Ceratocystis virens (Davidson) Moreau
- Cercoseptoria pini-densiflorae (Hori and Nambu) Deighton
- Cercospora angolensis Carv. and Mendes

(d) Virus and virus-like organisms

- Beet curly top virus (non-EU isolates)
- Black raspberry latent virus
- Blight and blight-like
- Cadang-Cadang viroid
- Palm lethal yellowing mycoplasma
- Satsuma dwarf virus

**Annex IIB**

(a) Insect mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

- Anthonomus grandis (Boh.)
- Cephalcia lariciphila (Klug)
- Dendroctonus micans Kugel
- Gilphinia hercyniae (Hartig)
- Gonipterus scutellatus Gyll.
- Ips amitinus Eichhof
- Ips cembrae Heer
- Ips duplicatus Sahlberg
- Ips sexdentatus Börner
- Ips typographus Heer
- Sternochetus mangiferae Fabricius
(b) Bacteria

*Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv. flaccumfaciens* (Hedges) Collins and Jones

(c) Fungi

*Glomerella gossypii* Edgerton  
*Hypoxylon mammatum* (Wahl.) J. Miller  
*Gremmeniella abietina* (Lag.) Morelet

1.1.2.2. Terms of Reference: Appendix 2

List of harmful organisms for which pest categorisation is requested per group. The list below follows the categorisation included in the annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC.

**Annex IAI**

(a) Insects, mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

Group of Cicadellidae (non-EU) known to be vector of Pierce's disease (caused by *Xylella fastidiosa*), such as:

1) *Carneocephala fulgida* Nottingham  
2) *Draeculacephala minerva* Ball

Group of Tephritidae (non-EU) such as:

1) *Anastrepha fraterculus* (Wiedemann)  
2) *Anastrepha ludens* (Loew)  
3) *Anastrepha obliqua* Macquart  
4) *Anastrepha suspensa* (Loew)  
5) *Dacus ciliatus* Loew  
6) *Dacus curcurbitae* Coquillet  
7) *Dacus dorsalis* Hendel  
8) *Dacus tryoni* (Froggatt)  
9) *Dacus tsuneonis* Miyake  
10) *Dacus zonatus* Saund.  
11) *Epochra canadensis* (Loew)

2) *Graphocephala atropunctata* (Signoret)

12) *Pardalaspis cyanescens* Bezzi  
13) *Pardalaspis quinaria* Bezzi  
14) *Pterandrus rosa* (Karsch)  
15) *Rhacochaena japonica* Ito  
16) *Rhagoletis completa* Cresson  
17) *Rhagoletis fausta* (Osten-Sacken)  
18) *Rhagoletis indifferentens* Curran  
19) *Rhagoletis mendax* Curran  
20) *Rhagoletis pomonella* Walsh  
21) *Rhagoletis suavis* (Loew)

(b) Viruses and virus-like organisms

Group of potato viruses and virus-like organisms such as:

1) Andean potato latent virus  
2) Andean potato mottle virus  
3) *Arracacha virus* B, oca strain  
4) Potato black ringspot virus  
5) Potato virus T  
6) non-EU isolates of potato viruses A, M, S, V, X and Y (including Yo, Yn and Yc) and Potato leafroll virus

Group of viruses and virus-like organisms of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L., such as:

1) Blueberry leaf mottle virus  
2) Cherry rasp leaf virus (American)  
3) Peach mosaic virus (American)  
4) Peach phony rickettsia  
5) Peach rosette mosaic virus  
6) Peach rosette mycoplasm  
7) Peach X-disease mycoplasm  
8) Peach yellows mycoplasm  
9) Plum line pattern virus (American)  
10) Raspberry leaf curl virus (American)  
11) Strawberry witches' broom mycoplasm  
12) Non-EU viruses and virus-like organisms of *Cydonia* Mill., *Fragaria* L., *Malus* Mill., *Prunus* L., *Pyrus* L., *Ribes* L., *Rubus* L. and *Vitis* L.
**Annex IIAI**

(a) Insects, mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

Group of Margarodes (non-EU species) such as:

1) *Margarodes vitis* (Phillipi)  
2) *Margarodes vredendalensis* de Klerk  
3) *Margarodes prieskaensis* Jakubski

1.1.2.3. Terms of Reference: Appendix 3

List of harmful organisms for which pest categorisation is requested. The list below follows the annexes of Directive 2000/29/EC.

**Annex IIAI**

(a) Insects, mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

- **Acleris spp.** (non-EU)  
  - *Longidorus diadecturus* Eveleigh and Allen

- **Amauromyza maculosa** (Malloch)  
  - *Monochamus spp.* (non-EU)

- **Anomala orientalis** Waterhouse  
  - *Myndus crudus* Van Duzee

- **Arrhenodes minutus** Drury  
  - *Nacobbus aberrans* (Thorne) Thorne and Allen

- **Choristoneura** spp. (non-EU)  
  - *Naupactus leucoloma* Boheman

- **Conotrachelus nenuphar** (Herbst)  
  - *Premnotypes spp.* (non-EU)

- **Dendrolimus sibiricus** Tschetverikov  
  - *Pseudopityophthorus minutissimus* (Zimmermann)

- **Diabrotica barberi** Smith and Lawrence

- **Diabrotica undecimpunctata howardi** Barber

- **Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata** Mannerheim

- **Diabrotica virgifera** zeae Krysan & Smith

- **Diaphorina citri** Kuway

- **Heliolthis zeas** (Boddie)  
  - *Scaphoideus tuttlei* (Van Duzee)

- **Hirschmanniella** spp., other than *Hirschmanniella gracilis* (de Man) Luc and Goodey

- **Liriomyza sativae** Blanchard

(b) Fungi

- **Ceratocystis fagacearum** (Bretz) Hunt  
  - *Guignardia lariina* (Saw.) Yamamoto and Ito

- **Chromosmyxa arctostaphyli** Dietel  
  - *Gymnosporangium* spp. (non-EU)

- **Cronartium** spp. (non-EU)  
  - *Inonotus weirii* (Murril) Kotlaba and Pouzar

- **Endocronartium** spp. (non-EU)  
  - *Melampsora farlowii* (Arthur) Davis

- **Mycosphaerella larici-leptolepis** Ito et al.  
  - *Septoria lycopersici* Spec. var. *malagutii* Ciccarone and Boerema

- **Mycosphaerella populorum** G. E. Thompson

- **Phoma andina** Turkensteen

- **Phyllolista solitaria** Ell. and Ev.

- **Thecaphora solani** Barrus

- **Tecophilosa brinkmannii** (Bresad.) Rogers

(c) Viruses and virus-like organisms

- Tobacco ringspot virus

- Tomato ringspot virus

- Bean golden mosaic virus

- Cowpea mild mottle virus

- Lettuce infectious yellows virus

(d) Parasitic plants

- *Arceuthobium* spp. (non-EU)
Annex IAII

(a) Insects, mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

Meloidogyne fallax Karssen  
Popillia japonica Newman

(b) Bacteria

Clavibacter michiganensis (Smith) Davis et al. ssp. Ralstonia solanacearum (Smith) Yabuuchi et al. sepedonicus (Spieckermann and Kotthoff) Davis et al.

(c) Fungi

Melampsora medusae Thümen  
Synchytrium endobioticum (Schilbersky) Percival

Annex I B

(a) Insects, mites and nematodes, at all stages of their development

Leptinotarsa decemlineata Say  
Liriomyza bryoniae (Kaltenbach)

(b) Viruses and virus-like organisms

Beet necrotic yellow vein virus

1.2. Interpretation of the Terms of Reference

_Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata_ Mannerheim is one of a number of pests listed in the Appendices to the Terms of Reference (ToR) to be subject to pest categorisation to determine whether it fulfils the criteria of a quarantine pest or those of a regulated non-quarantine pest (RNQP) for the area of the EU excluding Ceuta, Melilla and the outermost regions of Member States (MS) referred to in Article 355(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), other than Madeira and the Azores.

Following the adoption of Regulation (EU) 2016/20314 on 14 December 2019 and the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 for the listing of EU regulated pests, the Plant Health Panel interpreted the original request (ToR in Section 1.1.2) as a request to provide pest categorisations for the pests in the Annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/20725.

2. Data and methodologies

2.1. Data

2.1.1. Literature search

A literature search on _Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata_ was conducted at the beginning of the categorisation in the ISI Web of Science bibliographic database, using the scientific name of the pest and its common name (western spotted cucumber beetle) as search terms. Relevant papers were reviewed, and further references and information were obtained from experts, as well as from citations within the references and grey literature.

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4 Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament of the Council of 26 October 2016 on protective measures against pests of plants, amending Regulations (EU) No 228/2013, (EU) No 652/2014 and (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 69/464/EEC, 74/647/EEC, 93/85/EEC, 98/57/EC, 2000/29/EC, 2006/91/EC and 2007/33/EC.

5 Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019.
2.1.2. Database search

Pest information, on host(s) and distribution, was retrieved from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) Global Database (EPPO, 2020) and relevant publications.

Data about the import of commodity types that could potentially provide a pathway for the pest to enter the EU and about the area of hosts grown in the EU were obtained from EUROSTAT (Statistical Office of the European Communities).

The Europhyt database was consulted for pest-specific notifications on interceptions and outbreaks. Europhyt is a web-based network run by the Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission, and is a subproject of PHYSAN (Phyto-Sanitary Controls) specifically concerned with plant health information. The Europhyt database manages notifications of interceptions of plants or plant products that do not comply with EU legislation, as well as notifications of plant pests detected in the territory of the MS and the phytosanitary measures taken to eradicate or avoid their spread. The recording of interceptions switched from Europhyt to TRACES in May 2020. TRACES is a European Commission online platform used for the importation of plants into the European Union (It is also used for animals, animal products, food and feed of non-animal origin).

2.2. Methodologies

The Panel performed the pest categorisation for *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* following guiding principles and steps presented in the EFSA guidance on quantitative pest risk assessment (EFSA PLH Panel, 2018) and in the International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures No 11 (FAO, 2013) and No 21 (FAO, 2004).

This work was initiated following an evaluation of the EU plant health regime. Therefore, to facilitate the decision-making process, in the conclusions of the pest categorisation, the Panel addresses explicitly each criterion for a Union quarantine pest and for a Union RNQP in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants, and includes additional information required in accordance with the specific terms of reference received by the European Commission. In addition, for each conclusion, the Panel provides a short description of its associated uncertainty.

Table 1 presents the Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 pest categorisation criteria on which the Panel bases its conclusions. All relevant criteria have to be met for the pest to potentially qualify either as a quarantine pest or as a RNQP. If one of the criteria is not met, the pest will not qualify. A pest that does not qualify as a quarantine pest may still qualify as a RNQP that needs to be addressed in the opinion. For the pests regulated in the protected zones only, the scope of the categorisation is the territory of the protected zone; thus, the criteria refer to the protected zone instead of the EU territory.

It should be noted that the Panel’s conclusions are formulated respecting its remit and particularly with regard to the principle of separation between risk assessment and risk management (EFSA founding regulation (EU) No 178/2002); therefore, instead of determining whether the pest is likely to have an unacceptable impact, the Panel will present a summary of the observed pest impacts. Economic impacts are expressed in terms of yield and quality losses and not in monetary terms, whereas addressing social impacts is outside the remit of the Panel.

**Table 1**: Pest categorisation criteria under evaluation, as defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants (the number of the relevant sections of the pest categorisation is shown in brackets in the first column)

| Criterion of pest categorisation | Criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding Union quarantine pest | Criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding protected zone quarantine pest (Articles 32–35) | Criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding Union regulated non-quarantine pest |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Identity of the pest (Section 3.1) | Is the identity of the pest established, or has it been shown to produce consistent symptoms and to be transmissible? | Is the identity of the pest established, or has it been shown to produce consistent symptoms and to be transmissible? | Is the identity of the pest established, or has it been shown to produce consistent symptoms and to be transmissible? |
| Criterion of pest categorisation | Criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding Union quarantine pest | Criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding protected zone quarantine pest (Articles 32–35) | Criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding Union regulated non-quarantine pest |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Absence/presence of the pest in the EU territory** (Section 3.2) | Is the pest present in the EU territory? If present, is the pest widely distributed within the EU? Describe the pest distribution briefly! | Is the pest present in the EU territory? If not, it cannot be a protected zone quarantine organism | Is the pest present in the EU territory? If not, it cannot be a RNQP. (A regulated non-quarantine pest must be present in the risk assessment area) |
| **Regulatory status** (Section 3.3) | If the pest is present in the EU but not widely distributed in the risk assessment area, it should be under official control or expected to be under official control in the near future | The protected zone system aligns with the pest free area system under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The pest satisfies the IPPC definition of a quarantine pest that is not present in the risk assessment area (i.e. protected zone) | |
| **Pest potential for entry, establishment and spread in the EU territory** (Section 3.4) | Is the pest able to enter into, become established in, and spread within, the EU territory? If yes, briefly list the pathways! | Is the pest able to enter into, become established in, and spread within, the protected zone areas? Is entry by natural spread from EU areas where the pest is present possible? | Is spread mainly via specific plants for planting, rather than via natural spread or via movement of plant products or other objects? Clearly state if plants for planting is the main pathway! |
| **Potential for consequences in the EU territory** (Section 3.5) | Would the pests’ introduction have an economic or environmental impact on the EU territory? | Would the pests’ introduction have an economic or environmental impact on the protected zone areas? | Does the presence of the pest on plants for planting have an economic impact as regards the intended use of those plants for planting? |
| **Available measures** (Section 3.6) | Are there measures available to prevent the entry into, establishment within or spread of the pest within the EU such that the risk becomes mitigated? | Are there measures available to prevent the entry into, establishment within or spread of the pest within the protected zone areas such that the risk becomes mitigated? Is it possible to eradicate the pest in a restricted area within 24 months (or a period longer than 24 months where the biology of the organism so justifies) after the presence of the pest was confirmed in the protected zone? | Are there measures available to prevent pest presence on plants for planting such that the risk becomes mitigated? |
| **Conclusion of pest categorisation** (Section 4) | A statement as to whether 1) all criteria assessed by EFSA above for consideration as a potential quarantine pest were met and 2) if not, which one(s) were not met | A statement as to whether 1) all criteria assessed by EFSA above for consideration as potential protected zone quarantine pest were met, and 2) if not, which one(s) were not met | A statement as to whether 1) all criteria assessed by EFSA above for consideration as a potential RNQP were met, and 2) if not, which one(s) were not met |

The Panel will not indicate in its conclusions of the pest categorisation whether to continue the risk assessment process, but following the agreed two-step approach, will continue only if requested by the risk managers. However, during the categorisation process, experts may identify key elements and knowledge gaps that could contribute significant uncertainty to a future assessment of risk. It would be useful to identify and highlight such gaps so that potential future requests can specifically target the major elements of uncertainty, perhaps suggesting specific scenarios to examine.
3. Pest categorisation

3.1. Identity and biology of the pest

3.1.1. Identity and taxonomy

The western spotted cucumber beetle, *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* Mannerheim 1843, is an insect in the order Coleoptera, Family Chrysomelidae. *Diabrotica soror* LeConte 1865 is a junior synonym. The EPPO code\(^6\) (Griessinger and Roy, 2015; EPPO, 2019) for this species is DIABUN (EPPO, 2020). According to Derunkov et al. (2015), the New World genus *Diabrotica* Chevrolat, 1836 contains over 400 described species. An extensive review of North and Central American *Diabrotica* spp. (Derunkov & Konstantinov 2013) resulted in an online identification guide of 112 taxa including *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (Derunkov et al., 2013).

3.1.2. Biology of the pest

Adults of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*, (including gravid females, Miller, 2007) are present year-round in areas where they overwinter in western USA (Krysan, 1986) as this species does not undergo a true diapause (Rimando et al., 1966). During the winter, though, adults are difficult to observe as they hide in leaf litter accumulated next to trees, shrubbery, fences and other structures (Goodell and Phillips, 2019). According to Smith and Michelbacher (1949), adults have a pre- and a post-dormancy migration between lowlands and foothills. When the temperature rises above 15.6°C (60°F), adults become active. They fly readily and move between cultivated and non-cultivated land. These beetles like moisture and dislike heat. Consequently, host crop fields (e.g. melons) are especially attractive in hot weather during and after irrigation (ANRUC, 2019). Adults are polyphagous (more than 30 different botanical families, see Section 3.4.1), and may feed on leaves of seedlings in the spring (Alston and Worwood, 2012), but show a marked preference for maize tassels in the field. Males and females can mate several times, each copulation lasting from about 30 min to several hours. Copulation takes place at any time of day and can occur at 11.1°C (52°F). Fecundity is higher at 23.9–26.7°C (75–80°F). Field collected adults can produce eggs for about one month. However, they can live for up to 4 months. A cage of about 700 adults may result in 10,000 eggs/week (Krysan, 1986). In the field, adults lay eggs at the base of host plants, which according to Clark et al. (2004) and Krysan (1986), include several cultivated and wild Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae, Solanaceae and Polygonaceae. Upon egg hatching, larvae begin to feed on corresponding plant roots. They complete development, which takes about 30 days at 27°C in an earthen cocoon in the soil. There are about three generations a year in California (ANRUC, 2019) but just one in the Pacific Northwest of the USA (Rimando et al., 1965). As larvae of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* may develop outside of cultivated fields, on roots of wild hosts, they may escape any in-field control measure (ANRUC, 2019).

3.1.3. Intraspecific diversity

The species *D. undecimpunctata* is divided into four subspecies. In addition to *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* Mannerheim, *D. undecimpunctata duodecimnotata* Harold, *D. undecimpunctata tenella* LeConte and *D. undecimpunctata howardi* Barber have been described (Derunkov et al., 2013). *D. undecimpunctata howardi* will be subject to a separate pest categorisation by the EFSA plant health panel.

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\(^6\) An EPPO code, formerly known as a Bayer code, is a unique identifier linked to the name of a plant or plant pest important in agriculture and plant protection. Codes are based on genus and species names. However, if a scientific name is changed the EPPO code remains the same. This provides a harmonized system to facilitate the management of plant and pest names in computerized databases, as well as data exchange between IT systems (Griessinger and Roy, 2015; EPPO, 2019).
3.1.4. Detection and identification of the pest

**Are detection and identification methods available for the pest?**

Yes, detection and identification methods for *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* are available.

**Detection**

Infested cucurbits show adult feeding holes in the leaves and scars on runners and young fruits. Scarring in the crown of the plant is also typical of adult damage (EPPO, 2020). Young host plants may die either because of adult feeding on seedlings or because of larval root damage (ANRUC, 2019).

According to Alston and Worwood (2012), *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* can be detected by field scouting and/or the use of traps that lure and capture beetles mostly using food attractants.

**Identification**

**Adults:** Based on Derunkov et al. (2013), body length 4.8–6.9 mm; body width 2.4–3.9 mm. Head basic colour black. Antennae filiform, bi- or tricoloured, antennomeres 1–3 yellow, upper sides darkened, antennomeres 4–11 black. Maxillary palpi and labrum black. Pronotum yellow or sulfur yellow, subquadrate, bifoveate, with small round foveae, shagreened with minute wrinkles. Scutellum black. Elytra green, yellow or rufous, maculate with 12 round black maculae. Elytral epipleura completely yellow, sutural angle of elytra round, punctuation scattered, fine. Abdomen black. Legs black. Aedeagus symmetric, with four internal sac-sclerites.

Adults of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* can be separated from other *Diabrotica* species by the following features: legs and abdomen entirely black in *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*, partly pale in other species (Figure 1).

**Eggs:** oval, orange-yellow and 0.6 mm diameter. Their surface is covered with hexagonal pits (Alston and Worwood, 2012; Arant, 1929).

**Larvae:** Third instar larvae are 8–13 mm long, white to yellowish, with a brownish head capsule and a brown dorsal shield on the ninth abdominal segment (Alston and Worwood, 2012; Arant, 1929).

**Pupae:** Pupae are exarate adecticous, whitish and 6 mm long. They are found in earthen cells in soil near plant roots (Alston and Worwood, 2012; Arant, 1929).

![Figure 1: Adult Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata. (David Cappaert, Bugwood.org)](image)

3.2. Pest distribution

3.2.1. Pest distribution outside the EU

The distribution of the two subspecies of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* and *D. undecimpunctata howardi* was not distinguished in the older literature and is reported to range in
North America from Canada to Mexico. The distribution of the subspecies *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is limited to the southwest of this area (EPPO, 2020). The current distribution is provided in Figure 2 and Table 2.

![Global distribution map for *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (extracted from the EPPO Global Database accessed on 25 September 2020)](https://example.com/diagram)

**Figure 2:** Global distribution map for *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (extracted from the EPPO Global Database accessed on 25 September 2020)

**Table 2:** Distribution of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (Source: EPPO Global Database, 2020)

| Continent          | Country                  | Subnational area, e.g. State | Status                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| America            | Mexico                   |                              | Present restricted distribution |
|                    | United States of America |                              | Present restricted distribution |
|                    | Arizona                  |                              | Present                       |
|                    | California               |                              | Present                       |
|                    | Colorado                 |                              | Present                       |
|                    | Idaho                    |                              | Present                       |
|                    | Oregon                   |                              | Present                       |
|                    | Utah                     |                              | Present                       |
|                    | Washington               |                              | Present                       |
| Oceania            | Guam                     |                              | Present, few occurrences      |

3.2.2. Pest distribution in the EU

**Is the pest present in the EU territory? If present, is the pest widely distributed within the EU?**

**No,** *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is not known to occur in the EU.

*D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is not known to occur in the EU. The NPPO of Slovenia declared to EPPO in July 2017 that *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* was absent from its territory on the basis that there are no records of it in the country (EPPO, global database).

3.3. Regulatory status

3.3.1. Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072

*D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is listed in Annex II of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, the implementing act of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Details are presented in Tables 3 and 4.
Table 3: *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* in Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072

| Annex II | List of Union quarantine pests and their respective codes |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Part A   | Pests not known to occur in the Union territory         |
|          | Quarantine Pests and their codes assigned by EPPO       |
| C        | Insects and mites                                       |
| 26       | *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* Mannerheim |

3.3.2. Legislation addressing the hosts of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*

Regulated hosts and commodities that may involve *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* in Annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072 are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Regulated hosts and commodities that may involve *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* in Annexes of Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072

| Annex VI | List of plants, plant products and other objects, whose introduction into the Union from certain third countries is prohibited. |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          | Description                                                                                                                   | CN Code          | Third country, group of third countries or specific area of third country                                                                 |
| 14.      | Plants for planting of the family Poaceae, other than plants of ornamental perennial grasses of the subfamilies Bambusoideae and Panicoideae and of the genera Buchloe, Bouteloua Lag., Calamagrostis, Cortaderia Stapf., Glyceria R. Br., Hakonechloa Mak. ex Honda, Hystrix, Molinia, Phalaris L., Shibataea, Spartina Schreb., Stipa L. and Uniola L., other than seeds | ex 0602 90 50 ex 0602 90 91 ex 0602 90 99 | Third countries other than: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Egypt, Faeroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Russia (only the following parts: Central Federal District (Tsentralny federalny okrug), Northwestern Federal District (Severo-Zapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District (Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug) and Volga Federal District (Privolzhsky federalny okrug)), San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine |
| 15.      | Tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L., seed potatoes                                                                             | 0701 10 00        | Third countries other than Switzerland                                                                                           |
| 16.      | Plants for planting of stolon- or tuber-forming species of *Solanum* L., or their hybrids, other than those tubers of *Solanum tuberosum* L. as specified in entry 15 | ex 0601 10 90 ex 0601 20 90 ex 0602 90 50 ex 0602 90 70 ex 0602 90 91 ex 0602 90 99 | Third countries other than Switzerland                                                                                           |
17. Tubers of species of *Solanum* L., and their hybrids, other than those specified in entries 15 and 16. 

| CN code       | Origin                          | Special requirements                                                                 |
|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ex 0601 10 90 | Third countries other than: (a) Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Libya, Morocco, Syria, Switzerland, Tunisia and Turkey, or (b) those which fulfil the following provisions: (i) they are one of the following: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Faeroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Russia (only the following parts: Central Federal District (Tsentralny federalny okrug), Northwestern Federal District (Severo-Zapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District (Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug) and Volga Federal District (Privolzhsky federalny okrug)), San Marino, Serbia, and Ukraine and (ii) they are either recognised as being free from *Clavibacter sepedonicus* (Spieckermann and Kottho) Nouioui et al., in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 107 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031, or – their legislation, is recognised as equivalent to the Union rules concerning protection against *Clavibacter sepedonicus* (Spieckermann and Kottho) Nouioui et al. in accordance with the procedure referred to in Article 107 of Regulation (EU) No 2016/2031 have been complied with. |}

18. Plants for planting of *Solanaceae* other than seeds and the plants covered by entries 15, 16 or 17. 

| CN code       | Third countries other than: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Egypt, Faeroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Russia (only the following parts: Central Federal District (Tsentralny federalny okrug), Northwestern Federal District (Severo-Zapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District (Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug) and Volga Federal District (Privolzhsky federalny okrug)), San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. |}

### Annex VII

| Plants, plant products and other objects | Origin | Special requirements |
|----------------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| ex 0602 90 50                          | Third countries other than Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canary Islands, Egypt, Faeroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Russia (only the following parts: Central Federal District (Tsentralny federalny okrug), Northwestern Federal District (Severo-Zapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District (Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug) and Volga Federal District (Privolzhsky federalny okrug)), San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine. | Official statement that the plants: (a) have been grown in nurseries; (b) are free from plants debris, flowers and fruits; (c) have been inspected and prior to export; (d) are found to be free from symptoms of harmful bacteria, viruses and virus- like organisms; and (e) are found to be free from signs or symptoms of harmful nematodes, insects, mites and fungi, or have been subjected to appropriate treatment to eliminate such organisms EN L 319/98 Official Journal of the European Union 10.12.2019. |
| ex 0602 90 91                          |        |                      |
| ex 0602 90 99                          |        |                      |
(Severo-Zapadny federalny okrug), Southern Federal District (Yuzhnny federalny okrug), North Caucasian Federal District (Severo-Kavkazsky federalny okrug) and Volga Federal District (Privolzhsky federalny okrug)), San Marino, Serbia, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine

### Annex XI

**List of plants, plant products and other objects subject to phytosanitary certificates and those for which such certificates are not required for their introduction into the Union territory**

| Plants, plant products and other objects | CN code and its respective description under Council Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 | Country of origin or dispatch |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| All plants, within the meaning of point 1 of Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, other than those specified in parts A and C of this Annex | … Cucumbers and gherkins, fresh or chilled: 0707 00 05 0707 00 90 Leguminous vegetables, shelled or unshelled, fresh or chilled: 0708 10 00 0708 20 00 0708 90 00 Asparagus, celery other than celeriac, spinach, New Zealand spinach and orache spinach (garden spinach), globe artichokes, olives, pumpkins, squash and gourds (Cucurbita spp.), salad vegetables, (other than lettuce (Lactuca sativa) and chicory (Cichorium spp.)), chard (or white beet) and cardoons, capers, fennel and other vegetables, fresh or chilled, other than planted in a growing substrate: 0709 20 00 ex 0709 40 00 ex 0709 70 00 0709 91 00 0709 92 10 0709 92 90 0709 93 10 0709 93 90 ex 0709 99 10 ex 0709 99 20 0709 99 40 ex 0709 99 50 ex 0709 99 90 Melons, fresh or chilled: 0807 11 00 0807 19 00 … | Third countries other than Switzerland |

| B | List of the respective CN codes of plants, as well as the respective third countries of their origin or dispatch, for which, pursuant to Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, phytosanitary certificates are required for their introduction into the Union territory |

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**Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata: Pest categorisation**

www.efsa.europa.eu/efsajournal 16 EFSA Journal 2020;18(10):6291
3.3.3. Legislation addressing the organisms vectored by *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072)

*D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*, as other beetles within the genus *Diabrotica*, can spread the squash mosaic virus, EPPO code SQMV00 (ANRUC, 2019), a pest present in Greece, Italy and the Netherlands (EPPO GD) and not regulated in the EU.

3.4. Entry, establishment and spread in the EU

3.4.1. Host range

Both adults and larvae of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* are highly polyphagous. True hosts, i.e. those on which this beetle can reproduce, include a wide range of wild and cultivated annual plants in the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae, Polygonaceae and Solanaceae (Krysan, 1989; Clark et al., 2004; Alston and Worwood, 2012; ANRUC, 2019). Adults may feed on plants in 30 additional families. Table 5 shows plant parts of plant species where either larvae may complete development or adults may feed. Fruit like peaches have been reported as an adult feeding host by Alston and Worwood (2012). As adults actively look for moisture, this report may just reflect an attraction for mature fruit (i.e. not only peaches), which would precisely offer what adults look for in hot and dry days.

**Table 5:** Plant parts of the plant hosts where larvae and adults of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* can feed (based on Krysan, 1989; Clark et al., 2004; Alston and Worwood, 2012; ANRUC, 2019; Day, 2020)

| Life stage | Hosts |
|------------|-------|
| Larva      | Roots of Chenopodiaceae (*Beta vulgaris*), Cucurbitaceae (*Cucumis melo, C. sativus, Cucurbita spp.*), Fabaceae (*Arachis hypogaea, Vicia sp.*, *Lathyris hirsutus, L. odoratus, Medicago sativa, Phaseolus vulgaris, Pisum sativum*), Poaceae (*Hordeum sp., Oryza sativa, Phalaris sp.*, *Triticum sp.*, *Zea mays*), Polygonaceae (*Polygonum sp.*) and Solanaceae (*Solanum lycopersicin, Solanum tuberosum*) |
| Adult      | Leaves, flowers, and soft fruits of Aceraceae, Agavaceae, Apiaceae, Asteraceae, Brassicaceae, Cannaceae, Caryophyllaceae, Chenopodiaceae, Convolvulaceae, Cucurbitaceae (cantaloupe, cucumber, squash, gourd), Cyperaceae, Fabaceae (beans, peanuts), Fumariaceae, Grossulariaceae (currant), Iridaceae, Juglandaceae, Lauraceae (avocado), Liliaceae, Malvaceae, Moraceae, Orobanchaceae, Papaveraceae, Plantaginaceae, Poaceae (maize), Polygonaceae, Ranunculaceae, Rosaceae (almonds, apples, peaches, cherries), Rutaceae (citrus), Scrophulariaceae, Solanaceae (peppers, potatoes, tomatoes), Typhaceae, Verbenaceae and Violaceae |

Although the high polyphagy of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* would make the regulation of the hosts/commodities included in their host range an endless task, as a quarantine pest listed in Annex II, Part A of Regulation 2016/2031, the pest freedom status of any commodity introduced into the EU from the areas where the pest is known to occur should be granted by the compulsory phytosanitary certificate (Commission Implementing Regulation 2019/2072). Current regulations (see Tables 2 and 3) are not comprehensive of the true host range of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (i.e. those where oviposition takes place and immature stages complete development), as plants for planting of the families Chenopodiaceae (*Beta vulgaris*), Cucurbitaceae (*Cucumis spp.*) and Fabaceae (*Arachis hypogaea, Vicia sp.*, *Lathyris sp.*, *Medicago sativa, Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Pisum sativum*) other than seeds from third countries (where *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* occur) are not specifically regulated.

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3.4.2. Entry

Is the pest able to enter into the EU territory? If yes, identify and list the pathways.

Yes, the pest could enter into the EU in plants for planting (any life stage), flowers and fruit (adults) and soil/growing medium (immature stages, either by themselves, accompanying plants for planting, or attached to machinery).

Adult *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* are unlikely to be carried by either plants for planting, flowers, or fruit, which are the adult feeding hosts (Table 5), because 1) they would be expected to fly off such plant parts when disturbed during harvesting and processing for shipment and 2) they only feed on soft skinned young fruit (i.e. melons) not ready for harvest. *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is more likely to move in international trade as immature stages (eggs, larvae and pupae) on roots of true hosts or in soil, either as a commodity on its own, or when accompanying plants for planting. However, whether there is any import into the EU of susceptible plants for planting with soil (keep in mind that all plant hosts where larvae feed are annual) is uncertain but is quite unlikely.

A search of Europhyt interceptions database did not reveal any interception of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* for the period 1995–2020 (accessed on 15 July 2020). There were no interceptions recorded in the TRACES database from May to September 2020 (accessed on 25 September 2020). Potential entry pathways are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6:** Potential pathways for *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* and existing mitigations (if any)

| Pathway | Life stage | Relevant mitigations [e.g. prohibitions (Annex VI) or special requirements (Annex VII) within Implementing Regulation 2019/2072] |
|---------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Plants for planting with foliage and soil/growing medium | Eggs larvae and pupae on roots/in soil, Adults on foliage | [Annex VII of Regulation 2019/2072 requires a general freedom from symptoms of quarantine pests, Annex VI (14.) bans the introduction of Poacaeae from the USA, Annex VI (15.-18.) bans the introduction of Solanaceae from the USA, Annex VII (5.) excludes the USA from the introduction into the EU of annual (...) plants for planting other than Poaceae and seed] |
| Fruits | Adults on fruit | [Annex VII of Regulation 2019/2072 requires a general freedom from symptoms of quarantine pests, Article 72(1) of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 requires a phytosanitary certificate] |
| Soil and growing media | Immature stages | [Annex VI (19. and 20.) bans the introduction of soil and growing media as such into the Union from third countries other than Switzerland] |
| Soil on machinery | Immature stages | [Annex VII (2.) Official statement that machinery or vehicles are cleaned and free from soil and plant debris] |

The plants for planting with foliage and growing medium pathway is regulated because plants for planting require a phytosanitary certificate and, therefore, should be free from quarantine pests even if they are not specifically regulated in relation to *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*.

Likewise, the fruit pathway is regulated because fruits require a phytosanitary certificate and, therefore, should be free from quarantine pests even if they are not specifically regulated in relation to *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*.

The soil/growing media pathway can be considered as closed because soil can only enter the EU from Switzerland (Annex VI). *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is not known to occur in Switzerland.

Import records do not provide sufficient detail to identify whether host plants of the pest are imported into the EU.
3.4.3. Establishment

Is the pest able to become established in the EU territory?

Yes. Taking into account its distribution in western North America within climate zones that also occur in the EU, and the availability of hosts outdoors in Europe, *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* has the potential to establish in the EU.

3.4.3.1. EU distribution of main host plants

*Sources: EUROSTAT and/or other sources (previous opinions, forestry JRC maps, etc.)*

As noted above (Section 3.4.1) both adults and larvae of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* are polyphagous. However, they show a preference for cucurbits. Many of the various cultivated varieties of *Cucurbita pepo* (marrows, courgettes and zucchini) are grown within the EU. Marrows are grown more in northern Europe, while courgettes and zucchini are grown more in central and southern Europe. *Cucurbita maxima* (pumpkin) is grown outdoors across the EU. *Cucumis sativus* (cucumbers and gherkins) are grown both outdoors and in greenhouses in Europe. *Cucumis melo* (melons: cantaloupe, musk, winter) can be grown on a field scale in all Mediterranean countries and in greenhouses in northern Europe (de Rougemont, 1989). The area of cucurbit production in the EU, is shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Crop production area 2015–2019 in EU28 (cultivation/harvested/production) of maize and cucurbit hosts of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (1,000 ha) Source Eurostat

| Crop Code | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Watermelons V3520 | 76.39 | 75.29 | 76.47 | 73.54 | 76.13 |
| Muskmelons V3510 | 73.73 | 73.27 | 72.60 | 70.30 | 70.28 |
| Courgettes and marrows V3420 | 39.99 | 41.52 | 42.41 | 42.52 | 42.32 |
| Cucumbers V3200 | 33.51 | 32.43 | 31.91 | 32.76 | 35.04 |
| Cucumbers - under glass V3200S | 14.76 | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| Gherkins V3300 | 12.24 | 11.81 | 12.24 | 12.53 | 11.96 |
| Gourds and pumpkins V3430 | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |

Table 7: Crop production area 2015–2019 in EU28 (cultivation/harvested/production) of maize and cucurbit hosts of *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* (1,000 ha) Source Eurostat

| Crop Code | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Watermelons V3520 | 76.39 | 75.29 | 76.47 | 73.54 | 76.13 |
| Muskmelons V3510 | 73.73 | 73.27 | 72.60 | 70.30 | 70.28 |
| Courgettes and marrows V3420 | 39.99 | 41.52 | 42.41 | 42.52 | 42.32 |
| Cucumbers V3200 | 33.51 | 32.43 | 31.91 | 32.76 | 35.04 |
| Cucumbers - under glass V3200S | 14.76 | :     | :     | :     | :     |
| Gherkins V3300 | 12.24 | 11.81 | 12.24 | 12.53 | 11.96 |
| Gourds and pumpkins V3430 | :     | :     | :     | :     | :     |

; Data not available.

3.4.3.2. Climatic conditions affecting establishment

Krysan (1986) reports that the distribution of *Diabrotica* species in North America is limited by climate with *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* being found primarily along the western coastal states of USA and Mexico as indicated in Figure 1. A range of Köppen-Geiger climate zones can be found over this area. The global Köppen-Geiger climate zones (Kottek et al., 2006) describe terrestrial climate in terms of average minimum winter temperatures and summer maxima, amount of precipitation and seasonality (rainfall pattern). Several climate types that occur in Europe also occur over much of the area of US states in which *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is known to occur (Figure 3). In particular climate types Bsh (Hot semi-arid), Bsk (Cold semi-arid), Csa (Hot-summer Mediterranean), Csb (Warm-summer Mediterranean) also occur in the EU where maize and cucurbit crops are grown.

Considering its distribution in North America, availability of hosts outdoors in Europe and the temperatures required for development, *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* has the potential to establish in the EU. In the warmer southern EU, there could be two or three generations per year. *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* feeds on field crops and moves between crops and wild vegetation; it regularly migrates between lowlands and foothills. We have no evidence that it feeds on plants in greenhouses. As such it is not expected to establish in greenhouses if it were to enter the EU.
3.4.4. Spread

According to EPPO (2020), the adults are strong fliers and can disperse rapidly, travelling readily from field to field during the summer. Moreover, adults can be carried long distances by high-altitude air currents.

3.5. Impacts

In California, the cucumber beetle complex, which, in addition to *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata*, includes *Acalymma trivittatum* and *D. balteata* is a serious pest of smooth-skinned cucurbits, especially melons (ANRUC, 2019). While the adults prefer tender, succulent portions of plants, including the flowers and leaves, which they may destroy during feeding, it is the damage to the surface of the melon that reduces marketable yield. When temperatures are high, adults especially feed on the undersides of young melons, scarring them. After the skin hardens, melons are much less subject to attack. Scarring in the crown of the plant is also typical of adult damage. Feeding on stems of young plants, followed by sustained winds, may result in severe stand reductions making replanting necessary. In some situations, larvae may cause serious injury by feeding on roots, and young plants

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**Key Climate category**

| Key | Climate category | Descriptions |
|-----|------------------|--------------|
| Bsh | Dry, Hot semi-arid steppe, sub-tropical steppe, low-altitude dry |
| Bsk | Dry, Cold semi-arid steppe, Mid-altitude steppe, dry |
| Csa | Temperate, Dry hot summer; Mediterranean; Mild with dry hot summer |
| Csb | Temperate, Dry, warm summer; Mediterranean; Mild with dry warm summer |

**Figure 3:** Distribution of four Köppen–Gieger climate zones in North America including in States where *Diabrotica undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* occurs and which also occur in the EU (Map from MacLeod and Korycinska, 2019)
can be killed. Moreover, as pointed out in Section 3.3.3, *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* can spread the squash mosaic virus (SqMV). Early infections of SqMV often result in no or very low fruit production. Later infection can result in fruit that is small, deformed and discoloured. Melons infected with SqMV often lack netting at maturity (University of Minnesota Extension, 2018).

3.6. **Availability and limits of mitigation measures**

| Information sheet title | Control measure summary | Risk component (entry/establishment/spread/impact) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| **Growing plants in isolation** | Description of possible exclusion conditions that could be implemented to isolate the crop from pests and if applicable relevant vectors. E.g. a dedicated structure such as glass or plastic greenhouses | Spread, impact |
| **Chemical treatments on consignments or during processing** | Use of chemical compounds that may be applied to plants or to plant products after harvest, during process or packaging operations and storage. The treatments addressed in this information sheet are: a) fumigation; b) spraying/dipping pesticides; c) surface disinfectants; d) process additives; e) protective compounds | Entry |

### 3.6.1. Identification of additional measures

Phytosanitary measures are currently applied to plants for planting and soil (see Section 3.3). Therefore, the entry pathways can be considered as partially closed (i.e. Poaceae and Solanaceae). However, plants for planting excluding seeds of the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae and Polygonaceae are not specifically regulated.

**RNQPs: Are there measures available to prevent pest presence on plants for planting such that the risk becomes mitigated?**

Yes, sourcing plants from PFAs (pest-free areas) would reduce the risk of the pest being present on plants.  

**Table 8**: Selected control measures (a full list is available in EFSA PLH Panel, 2018) for pest entry/establishment/spread/impact in relation to currently unregulated hosts and pathways. Control measures are measures that have a direct effect on pest abundance.
3.6.1.2. Additional supporting measures

No additional supporting measures are suggested.

3.6.1.3. Biological or technical factors limiting the effectiveness of measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of the pest

- Immature stages (i.e. eggs) could be hidden on the roots of/in the soil attached to host plants hampering their detection by external visual inspection
- Adults could be present as hitchhikers on non-host plants
- Adults can actively fly

3.6.1.4. Biological or technical factors limiting the ability to prevent the presence of the pest on plants for planting

- Immature stages (i.e. eggs) could be hidden on the roots of/in the soil attached to host plants hampering their detection by external visual inspection

3.7. Uncertainty

There are no uncertainties affecting the conclusions of this categorisation.

4. Conclusions

*D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* satisfies the criteria that are within the remit of EFSA to assess for this species to be regarded as a potential Union quarantine pest. This species does not meet the criteria of being present in the EU nor plants for planting being the main pathway for spread for it to be regarded as a potential RNQP. Pest categorisation conclusions are presented in Table 9.

Table 9: The Panel’s conclusions on the pest categorisation criteria defined in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 on protective measures against pests of plants (the number of the relevant sections of the pest categorisation is shown in brackets in the first column)
| Criterion of pest categorisation | Panel’s conclusions against criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding Union quarantine pest | Panel’s conclusions against criterion in Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 regarding Union regulated non-quarantine pest | Key uncertainties |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Regulatory status (Section 3.3) | *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* is currently regulated as a quarantine pest. There are no grounds to consider the revoking of this status | *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* could spread within the EU territory. Adults are good flyers. Immature stages could spread with plants for planting. Although the latter is considered as the main entry pathway in international trade, natural spread would be the main pathway should the pest be introduced into the EU | |
| Pest potential for entry, establishment and spread in the EU territory (Section 3.4) | *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* could enter into, establish in, and spread within the EU territory. Main pathways are:  
- Plants for planting of the families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, Poaceae, Polygonaceae, and Solanaceae  
- Soil and growing medium as such or attached to machinery. The regulation covers 2 out of 6 families with hosts. The families Chenopodiaceae, Cucurbitaceae, Fabaceae, and Polygonaceae are not specifically regulated for import into the EU | *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* could spread within the EU territory. Adults are good flyers. Immature stages could spread with plants for planting. Although the latter is considered as the main entry pathway in international trade, natural spread would be the main pathway should the pest be introduced into the EU | |
| Potential for consequences in the EU territory (Section 3.5) | Should *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* be introduced into the EU, an economic impact would most likely follow | Should *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* be introduced into the EU, its presence on plants for planting would most likely have an economic impact on its intended use | |
| Available measures (Section 3.6) | There are measures to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* within the EU territory, like sourcing plants for planting from PFA | There are measures to prevent the presence of *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* on plants for planting, like sourcing plants for planting from PFA | |
| Conclusion on pest categorisation (Section 4) | *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* fulfills all criteria assessed by EFSA above for consideration as a quarantine pest | *D. undecimpunctata undecimpunctata* does not meet the criteria of being present in the EU nor plants for planting being the main pathway for spread for it to be regarded as a potential regulated non-quarantine pest | |
| Aspects of assessment to focus on/scenarios to address in future if appropriate | | | |

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Abbreviations

DG SANTÉ Directorate General for Health and Food Safety
EPPO European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
IPPC International Plant Protection Convention
ISPM International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
MS Member State
PFA pest-free area
PLH EFSA Panel on Plant Health
PZ Protected Zone
SqMV squash mosaic virus
TFEU Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
ToR Terms of Reference

Glossary

Containment (of a pest) Application of phytosanitary measures in and around an infested area to prevent spread of a pest (FAO, 1995, 2017)

Control (of a pest) Suppression, containment or eradication of a pest population (FAO, 1995, 2017)

Entry (of a pest) Movement of a pest into an area where it is not yet present, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled (FAO, 2017)

Eradication (of a pest) Application of phytosanitary measures to eliminate a pest from an area (FAO, 2017)

Establishment (of a pest) Perpetuation, for the foreseeable future, of a pest within an area after entry (FAO, 2017)

Greenhouse A walk-in, static, closed place of crop production with a usually translucent outer shell, which allows controlled exchange of material and energy with the surroundings and prevents release of plant protection products (PPPs) into the environment.

Impact (of a pest) The impact of the pest on the crop output and quality and on the environment in the occupied spatial units

Introduction (of a pest) The entry of a pest resulting in its establishment (FAO, 2017)

Measures Control (of a pest) is defined in ISPM 5 (FAO 2017) as "Suppression, containment or eradication of a pest population" (FAO, 1995).

Supporting measures are organisational measures or procedures supporting the choice of appropriate Risk Reduction Options that do not directly affect pest abundance.

Phytosanitary measures Any legislation, regulation or official procedure having the purpose to prevent the introduction or spread of quarantine pests, or to limit the economic impact of regulated non-quarantine pests (FAO, 2017)

Protected zones (PZ) A Protected zone is an area recognised at EU level to be free from a harmful organism, which is established in one or more other parts of the Union.

Quarantine pest A pest of potential economic importance to the area endangered thereby and not yet present there, or present but not widely distributed and being officially controlled (FAO, 2017)

Regulated non-quarantine pest A non-quarantine pest whose presence in plants for planting affects the intended use of those plants with an economically unacceptable impact and which is therefore regulated within the territory of the importing contracting party (FAO, 2017)

Risk reduction option (RRO) A measure acting on pest introduction and/or pest spread and/or the magnitude of the biological impact of the pest should the pest be
A RRO may become a phytosanitary measure, action or procedure according to the decision of the risk manager.

Spread (of a pest)
Expansion of the geographical distribution of a pest within an area (FAO, 2017)