



Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries

Our ref: CTS 01909/24

21/02/2024

Ms Monica Collins
First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Plant Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au

Dear Ms Collins

Thank you for the Biosecurity Advice 2023-P10 received on 14 November 2023 regarding the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) request for submissions on the '*Draft report for a review of pest risk assessments for spider mites (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tetranychidae)*' (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft report and agrees that the different risk ratings previously assigned by DAFF to spider mites that share similar biological characteristics and that are expected to pose similar biosecurity risks using the group pest risk assessment approach is warranted.

DAF has reviewed the draft report and agreed with the proposed outcomes. Specifically, DAF agrees that risk ratings and risk management measurements for the pathways meet Australia's appropriate level of protection for fresh fruit imports for human consumption. However, DAF noted some errors in table numbering in the draft report that need to be corrected, as below:

Page iv: Table 3.3 should be 3.2, and Table 3.4 should be 3.3

Page 27: Table 3.5 should be 3.3 in two places

Page 37: Table C.2 should be C.1

Page 41: Table D1 should be D2 in all places.

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In addition, DAF shares the following comments from one of our expert scientific reviewers:

- the spider mite species *Oligonychus perseae* is known as an economically important pest for several horticulture crops (including avocados) and is reported from many countries. It is a quarantine pest for Australia, but it is not included in the draft report. DAF suggests *O. perseae* be considered in the draft report
- the following species *Oligonychus punicae*, *Panonychus citri*, *Tetranychus marianae* and *Tetranychus kanzawai* were included in the draft report but have been reported to occur in Australia (see the *Spider mites of Australia* taxonomic key at https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/spider_mites_australia/index.html). DAF suggests that the quarantine status of these species is reviewed and updated.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. DAF would appreciate involvement in any further review processes leading to the finalisation of this report and to be kept informed of any potential biosecurity risks identified after the protocol is in place.

If your office requires further information, please contact Dr Abu-Baker Siddique, Senior Scientist, Biosecurity Queensland, in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 07 3708 8506 or email at abu-baker.siddique@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Bernadette Ditchfield
A/Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries