



ATT1 – DPIRD Submission: Draft report for a review of pest risk assessments for spider mites (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tetranychidae)

Western Australia remains relatively free from many quarantine pests present in other parts of Australia or in other countries. The state's geographical isolation in conjunction with a robust plant biosecurity system—including border quarantine checkpoints, inter- and intrastate regulatory controls, industry and public awareness campaigns, and specific and general surveillance programs—help maintain this status.

Under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) administers general and specific legislative requirements, which underpin plant biosecurity in Western Australia. This includes regulating the movement of potential carriers such as plant material, machinery and seeds into and within the state.

Plants and plant products may be imported into the state subject to general import conditions, with specified import conditions for commodities or pests where appropriate. Underpinning these general and specific import conditions is the legislative requirement for all potential carriers to be presented for inspection upon entry into Western Australia. The detection of any quarantine pests during an inspection results in remedial action.

Ongoing surveillance systems are also in operation in Western Australia with targeted surveillance activities operating alongside an effective passive surveillance program. These result in suspect samples submitted for identification to the DPIRD Diagnostic Laboratory Services or the Pest and Disease Information Service. MyPestGuide® Reporter (online and mobile application) assists industry and the community to identify and report the presence of pests and diseases.

Biosecurity concerns are communicated through a variety of platforms to growers and the wider community ensuring public awareness of current issues. DPIRD also utilises a range of extension opportunities to raise awareness in the Western Australian community to report anything unusual.

In maintaining Western Australia's freedom from quarantine pests DPIRD continues to take a strong interest in all biosecurity risk analyses and related documents and decisions made by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

General comments

DPIRD supports the standardisation of biosecurity risk ratings applied to spider mite species with similar biological characteristics.

DPIRD notes that all relevant comments that had been made on the 21 pest risk assessments used to inform this review were addressed.

Comment regarding regional quarantine pests for Western Australia

DPIRD does not claim official control for *Tetranychus marianae* – it is present in Western Australia and is listed as a permitted organism for the whole of state under section 11 of the BAM Act.

DPIRD notes and welcomes the ongoing recognition of *Panonychus citri* and *Tetranychus kanzawai* as regional quarantine pests for Western Australia.

Comment regarding spider mite reproductive biology

Page 6, Section 2.2.3, paragraphs 2 and 3

In the description of spider mite reproductive biology, the word 'bisexual' has been used, presumably, to express that male and female reproductive organs are in separate individual spider mites. Due to the potential for misinterpretation of the word 'bisexual' which has a different definition in common usage, DPIRD proposes a single word change to each of these paragraphs from 'bisexual' to 'dioecious' which is the technical term to express what's defined above.

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), 2023.