Helicoverpa punctigera (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae)

This short description has been prepared in the framework of the EPPO Study on Pest Risks Associated with the Import of Tomato Fruit. The whole study can be retrieved from the EPPO website.

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Africa	Asia	Oceania	North America	South-Central America and Caribbean

***Helicoverpa punctigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) (native budworm)**

Why	Identified in the EPPO tomato study. It is a serious pest in Australia, together with *H. armigera*, on a wide variety of crops.
Where	**EPPO region**: absent **Oceania**: Australia (throughout). CABI CPC also mentions New Zealand; however, it is considered as being vagrant in New Zealand according to Cameron and Walker (2004), and larvae are rarely found.
Climatic similarity	High. 8 common climates, as it is present throughout Australia (although its detailed distribution is not known). It is adaptable to a range of conditions according to CABI CPC.
On which plants	Highly polyphagous, with 270 plant species in 47 families (CABI CPC). These include cotton, sunflower, linseed (flax), legumes, tomato, tobacco, lucerne (CABI CPC). It is considered as a pest of tomato, capsicum, chilli, eggplant as well as beans, lettuce, sweet corn, range of field crops and weeds (ACIAR, 2013)
Damage	Larvae feed on leaves, buds, flowers and fruits, and most feeding concentrate on flowers and fruits when present. Pupae may be in soil as for other *Helicoverpa* species, although no data was found on this. *H. punctigera* and *H. armigera* combined represent the most significant insect pests of extensive agriculture in Australia (CABI CPC).
Dissemination	*H. punctigera* is highly migratory and the most mobile of *Helicoverpa* pests (CABI CPC).
Pathway	Plants for planting, fruits and vegetables of host plants, soil?, from countries where *H. punctigera* occurs.
Possible risks	Many hosts are major crops in the EPPO region. The climatic similarity according to the EPPO Study between the area where it occurs and the EPPO region is high.
Categorization	Quarantine pest for: New Zealand (Biosecurity NZ, 2000), Japan 2011 and Korea Rep 2011? (as *Heliothis punctigera*) (from IPP), USA (AQIS, 2003)
Sources	ACIAR. 2013. Tomato, capsicum, chilli and eggplant. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research AQIS. 2003. Industry Advice Notice no. 2003/13: Shade-House Tomato Exports To USA. http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurity/export/plants-plant-products/ian/03/13 (Accessed August 2013) Biosecurity NZ. 2000. Import Health Standard Commodity Sub-class: Fresh Fruit/Vegetables Tomato, Lycopersicon esculentum from Australia. Issued pursuant to Section 22 of the Biosecurity Act 1993. Date Issued: 9 June 2000. CABI CPC. 203. Cameron PJ, Walker GP. 2004. Helicoverpa armigera resistance management strategy. http://resistance.nzpps.org/insecticides.php?p=helicoverpa (Accessed December 2013) Quarantine lists for Japan 2011, Korea Rep. 2011 Note: there are many references given in CABI CPC, which have not been used here.