

## Forstschutz Aktuell Nr. 41 - Abstracts

### Inspection of Wood Packaging Material in Austria is More Essential than Ever

Hannes Krehan

The Austrian Plant Protection Organization for Forest Plants and Wood at the Federal Forest Office (BFW) carries out inspections of wood packaging material (WPM) from third countries at the place of destination. Every consignee of WPM from third countries has to be registered at BFW. The frequency of inspections depends on phytosanitary risk and number of consignments. There are advantages both for the companies (no waiting period at the border, products available without delay, less costs for inspection) and for the plant protection organization (nearly complete registration and inspection of third country WPM importers, inspection of trees and shrubs around storing place, more and better possibilities for proper inspections). Normally IPPC (International Plant Protection Convention) marked WPM is free of living organism, but during summer periods the detection of living stages of insects has increased in Austria. Among the most frequently detected organism were the Auger beetles *Sinoxylon anale* and *S. crassum* (Coleoptera: Bostrichidae: Bostrichinae) from India.

---

### Phytosanitary Monitoring on Trees in Bavaria

Thomas Immler, Carolin Bögel and Rainer Parusel

The EU Commission is increasingly developing quarantine measures to avoid the introduction and spread of new harmful pests. Monitoring of quarantine pests in Bavaria is organised in cooperation with phytosanitary authorities and forest administration to rationalise the effort.

---

### Two New Insect Species in Austria: One Established, the Other One Not (Yet)

Gottfried Steyrer and Bernhard Perny

In August the long horned beetle *Eburodacrys elegantula* Gounelle, 1909 was introduced to Vienna with liana for terraristic equipment. The beetle probably came from Brazil. It is not likely to spread in Austria due to climate conditions in winter. Already in 1999, the American Dock leaf bug *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910 was found first in Europe (Italy), in 2005 also in Austria. In autumn, many bugs were detected near buildings. The extreme weather conditions of the Austrian winter could not stop the spread of this species.

---

### Log Conservation under Oxygen Exclusion for Maintaining Timber-Quality and as a Bark Beetle Management Method

Christian Tomiczek and Gottfried Steyrer

After the windstorms "Kyrill" and "Franz", some hundred thousands cubic metres of timber had to be stored in Austrian forests. Conservation of round wood by wrapping with special plastic sheets under natural oxygen exclusion was tested. This method was invented in Germany and has shown good results for confers up to four years and for hard wood up to two years. Reportedly, the wood quality will remain stable. The oxygen concentration will be reduced between few days: Wood boring insects will be killed; wood destroying fungi will not be able to grow further. The optimal size of packages varies between 240 and 300 cu. m.. The costs vary from 9,00 (for 5.000 cu. m.) to 15 euros per cu. m. for the whole period. Mice and hail, which may damage the foil, may be a major problem.

---

### Remarkable Occurrence of Dothistroma Needle Blight on Swiss Stone Pine Trees in the Upper Mur Valley

Thomas Kirisits and Thomas L. Cech

A remarkable occurrence of Dothistroma needle blight on Swiss stone pine (*Pinus cembra*) trees at elevations between 850 and 1200 m asl. in the surroundings of the village Lutzmannsdorf in the upper Mur valley in Styria is reported. Young and old *P. cembra* trees, planted as ornamental and landscape trees or growing singly admixed in spruce-larch forests, were affected by this needle disease. Disease incidence was high and some trees were severely infected. Dothistroma needle blight has previously been recorded from Swiss stone pine in Austria, but severe infestation of this alpine pine species has been observed only once before. This remarkable occurrence of Dothistroma needle blight on *P. cembra* in the Alps matches our observations that the disease has occurred more commonly in Austria in the past few years.

---

### Red Band Disease of Pine Repeatedly Occuring on Spruce

Markus Blaschke and Alexandra Nannig

In recent years, the red band disease *Dothistroma septospora* was found on three different species of spruce (*Picea abies*, *P. pungens* and *P. omorika*). The trees were losing most of their needles. All spruce trees were standing close to pine trees. To

reduce defoliation we recommend to separate vulnerable pine species like *Pinus nigra* and *P. strobes* from spruce trees.

---

## Mercury in Spruce Foliage as a Marker of Air Pollution Stress

Alfred Fürst

Sulphur as a marker of air pollution stress in foliage and for zoning of air quality is increasingly losing its importance. On the one hand, more and more fuels with low sulphur contents are used; on the other hand, technical tools such as filters are used to eliminate SO<sub>2</sub>. A convenient marker shall hardly be retained by such filters. It shall escape in case of many different pollutants. It must accumulate in the foliage. It shall not or only to a very minor extent be absorbed by the roots. It shall be identifiable with simple analytical methods. The suitability of mercury as a marker of air pollution stress has been assessed by means of the Austrian Bio-Indicator Grid using sample data of autumn 2006.

---

## 2007 - A Year of Mice

Cornelia Triebenbacher

The increasing number and size of forests damages including defoliation caused by storm and bark beetle and the mild weather in last winter, led to a strong increase of the mouse population. Gnawing-damages at forest cultures are reported even already before fall - a very rare situation in Bavaria. Damages are caused exclusively by short-tail mice. It is reported how they live and how to control them.

---

## The Leaf Beetle *Clytra laeviuscula* - Masked Larvae in the Antshill

Bernhard Perny

With an increasing number of monocultural short rotation plantations also the hazard of mass outbreaks of pests is increasing. But not every insect found in larger numbers is a risk to the plants. A good example is the signal coloured leaf beetle *Clytra laeviuscula* (Chrysomelidae). Because of the interesting and very special biology it is not really fit for mass outbreaks, but rather indicates the presence of formicaries (ant-hills), mostly of the Genus *Formica* nearby, which are well known as beneficial insects in forests.

---

## Hail in Forestry

Bernhard Perny

Hail damage does not give rise to such big headlines in forestry like storm and snow. Nevertheless, such small-scale damages may become a major threat, e.g. for orcharding and viticulture. The scope of impact of hailstorms reaches from increase of predisposition to pests to complete dieback of forest stands.

---

## Drought- and Heat Damage Responsible for "Early Autumn"

Gottfried Steyrer

In many regions of Austria, not only in the eastern part with low altitudes, already in July a premature leaf discoloration has been noticed. In this way, the trees tried to defend against drying out after the lengthy drought. After the heat wave in mid-July, especially beech reacted regionally with leaf fall. Due to the reduced photosynthesis, increment losses are expected.

---



28.09.10 | Autor: Steyrer, G.