Draft Pest Risk Analysis for fresh Chinese jujube fruit from China

NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on Department of Agriculture and Water Resources’ draft report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh Chinese jujube fruit from China (consultation period closes on 17 May 2019). NSW DPI considers this draft report informative and thorough. NSW DPI also appreciated the opportunity to participate in DAWR’s stakeholder teleconference on 8 April.

Specific comment:
Jujube witches broom
As noted during the stakeholder teleconference on 8 April, NSW DPI continues to share the concerns raised by other jurisdictions regarding the assessment of risks with respect to jujube witches broom. NSW DPI considers the risk assessment regarding jujube witches broom requires further analysis and discussion in this document. The document may be further improved by the inclusion of an analysis of the reported resistance to jujube witches broom in jujube strains in China and the impact of asymptomatic infections on detections of jujube witches broom in fruit.

General comment:
Unclear linkage between Section 3 Commercial production practices in China and Section 4 Pest risk assessments for quarantine pests
Section 3 of the draft report identifies a number of pests which are monitored and managed as part of commercial production practices in China. Pests identified in this section (p23-24) for which treatments are specified are:

Jujube witches broom
Sucra jujuba
Scythropus yasumatsui
Ancylis sativa
Contarinia sp.
Ceroplastes japonicus
Bactrocera dorsalis
Bactrocera correcta
Zeugodacus cucurbitae
Carposina vesuviana
Red spider mites
Phakopsora ziziphi-vulgaris
Carposina sasakii
The description of commercial production practices in Section 3 is immediately followed by Section 4: Pest risk assessment. Table 4.1 presents the quarantine pests identified by DAWR as being associated with fresh Chinese jujube fruit from China:

Amphitetranychus viennensis (hawthorn spider mite)  
Bactrocera correcta (guava fruit fly)  
Zeugodacus cucurbitae (melon fly)  
Bactrocera dorsalis (Oriental fruit fly)  
Carpomyia vesuviana (jujube fruit fly)  
Heliococcus destructor (mealybug)  
Parlatoreopsis chinensis (Chinese obscure scale)  
Carposina sasakii (peach fruit borer)

There is no clear linkage between the pests identified for management in China (Section 3 p23-24) and those identified as quarantine pests (Section 4, Table 4.1 on p35). There is no rationale given for why pests managed in China are not considered further. A clearer “line of sight” between the pests managed in China and DAWR’s quarantine pests of concern would be helpful to readers.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comment. NSW DPI looks forward to continuing its participation in the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh Chinese jujubes from China.

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