



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Submission:

*Draft report for the review of biosecurity import requirements
for fresh pomegranate fruit and processed 'ready-to-eat arils'
from India*

16 December 2019

Contents

Introduction	1
Pathology comments regarding the risk assessments.....	2
<i>Coleophoma empetri</i> (Rostr.) Petr. [Incertae sedis: Incertae sedis]	2

Introduction

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.

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.

DPIRD's MyPestGuide (online and mobile application) assists industry and the community to identify and report the presence of pests and diseases. Industry awareness and participation is also achieved via programs such as HortGuard and GrainGuard, and includes the development of industry biosecurity plans and other extension material.

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 and Water Resources.

Pathology comments regarding the risk assessments

Coleophoma empetri (Rostr.) Petr. [Incertae sedis: Incertae sedis]

Comment 1: Likelihood of Importation (proposed rating Low). The evidence provided for a Low Likelihood of Importation appear not to support this rating with *C. empetri* being reported as a common occurrence on various host plants in pomegranate growing and adjacent area in India with no indication of low prevalence. As such the likelihood of *C. empetri* being present in symptomless infected pomegranate whole fruit imported into Australia appears similar to bacterial blight of pomegranate which has an importation likelihood of Moderate.

Recommendation 1: DPIRD requests that the likelihood of importation be assessed as similar (Moderate) to bacterial blight of pomegranate.

Recommendation 2: Alternatively, DPIRD requests that evidence justifying the likelihood of importation be reviewed to better represent a Low likelihood of Importation.

Comment 2: Likelihood of Establishment (proposed rating Moderate). The evidence provided for a Moderate likelihood of Establishment appear not to support this rating. The evidence provided such as a large host range including *Eucalyptus*, the suitability of the Australian environment, the resilience and survivability of *C. empetri* s in a wide range of environmental conditions and a suitably reproductive strategy for establishment in Australia all point towards *C. empetri* being very likely to establish should it entry into the Australia environment.

Recommendation 1: DPIRD requests that the likelihood of Establishment be assessed as High being very likely to establish should it entry into the Australia environment.

DPIRD acknowledges the recommended higher likelihood values won't change the final URE for *C. empetri*.