

Section 14 - Talk

Monitoring and risk assessment of the Pine Processionary Moth, *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (Den. & Schiff.) (Lep., Notodontidae), for the Upper Rhine Valley

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In 2007 the Pine Processionary Moth (PPM) was observed in the Upper Rhine Valley for the first time. Initially it was accidentally introduced with planting material to Obernai, Alsace, France. Consequently damages to pine trees and human health problems due to urticating caterpillar hairs are expected. In order to monitor whether PPM has already spread to Germany, where no records had been confirmed until then, delta traps with commercial lures were placed along the adjacent border in 2010 and regularly checked during the flight period from June to August. Not a single PPM was caught, although flight was registered in Obernai at the same time. Hence it can be assumed, that PPM has not crossed the border yet. To assess the potential risk of an establishment in Germany, climatic and stand data were analysed in context of the so far known habitat requirements of PPM. According to current climatic conditions, especially winter temperatures and the amount of insolation do not seem to allow a constant settlement of PPM at the Upper Rhine-Valley. However a temporary spread of PPM into this area can not be excluded. Considering the predicted scenarios of an upcoming climate change, a future permanent establishment of PPM is becoming more likely to occur.

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