

PLANTS AND ENVIRONMENT INVESTIGATION REPORT

Brown marmorated stink bug in snare drum from the USA

The notifier bought a snare drum on eBay. When the drum arrived, a live, brown, shield-shaped insect was found inside. The notifier identified it from web images as a brown marmorated stink bug. The insect was requested by MPI as a sample for formal identification. The notifier also emailed photos and carefully examined the box the insect arrived in but found no more insects. The insect appeared to have been a solitary hitchhiker. It was identified as a female brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*). No egg development was found during subsequent analysis. Since October 2012 the brown marmorated stink bug has been intercepted on four occasions: once at the border and three times post-border. In all the post-border cases these were females with no egg development, while a male was also present in the border interception. (See also article, page 34)

The Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI) Investigation and Diagnostic Centres & Response directorate (IDC & R) is accountable for the investigation and diagnosis of suspect exotic pests and diseases. In the plant and environment sectors IDC & R has investigators and scientists based in Auckland and Christchurch. The IDC & R provides field investigation, diagnostic testing and technical expertise with regard to new pests and diseases affecting plants and the environment. The IDC & R also conducts surveillance and response functions, and research and development to support surveillance and incursion response activities.

Insect in Christmas ornament container

A single live insect was found in packaging containing imported Christmas ornaments from France. The insect was submitted to MPI and identified as *Erthesina fullo* (yellow marmorated stink bug). It appeared to be an isolated hitchhiker as no more were found in the packaging. Since September 2012 *E. fullo* has been found four times: once at the border and three times post-border.

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