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Detection of exoctic *Monochamus* spp. in Belgium – testing the tools in the area of origin

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ABSTRACT

In the European Union, Commission decision 2012-535-EC on emergency measures to prevent the spread within the Union of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* specifies that "*Member States shall annually conduct surveys for* Bursaphelenchus xylophilus *[...] on susceptible plants, susceptible wood and bark and on the vector, and determine whether there is any evidence of the presence of PWN in their territory in areas in which PWN was previously not known to occur*".

Bursaphelenchus xylophilus has not been detected in Belgium to date, however, potential native *B. xylophilus* vectors, *Monochamus galloprovincialis* and *M. sartor,* have been detected infrequently. To effectively monitor for potential vectors, both native and exotic, it is necessary to test the efficacy of traps and lures in both this country and the countries of origin of potential vectors. In 2013, Belgium initiated a two-fold experimental programme aiming to: 1) monitor native *Monochamus* species susceptible to vector the pinewood nematode; and 2) implement surveillance for exotic species that could enter the country via wood packaging material. European traps (Econex Crosstrap) and lures (Galloprotect Pack), which have been successfully tested in different EU countries, were deployed in various locations throughout Belgium, including ten points adjacent to companies importing goods in wood packaging material. In parallel, to validate the capacity of these traps and lures to capture exotic *Monochamus* species, traps were sent to several locations in North America known to harbour species that vector PWN. In the United States, traps and lures were sent to Arkansas targeting *M. caroliniensis* and *M. titillator,* and Utah targeting *M. scutellatus* and *M. clamator*. In Canada, they were sent to New Brunswick targeting *M. mutator* and *M. notatus,* and British Columbia targeting *M. obtusus*. Here we present the first results of this control experiment.