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Chamaesphecia hungarica - Current status of quarantine clearance and field establishment

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Chamaesphecia hungarica, a member of the Aegeriidae family, is a clear-winged moth native to southeastern Czechoslovakia, Austria, Hungary, Serbia and Croatia. In Europe it is usually found in moist loamy soils and partial shade near riverbanks, swampy areas and ditches. Adults emerge from mid May to late July depending upon climatic conditions at the site. Mating usually occurs within 24 hours. Larvae mine the stem and move into the pith area. Larvae overwinter in the roots and migrate to the stem base in spring where pupation occurs. The International Institute of Biological Control, Delémont, Switzerland collected larvae infested roots in Serbia and shipped them to the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine Laboratory (USDA-APHIS-PPQ) quarantine laboratory at Mission, Texas. The material was placed in moistened soil and maintained at a temperature range of from 20° C to 25° C. Upon eclosion of adults, sampling was performed for pathology examination and identification verification. Some adults were directly transported and released at field sites, others were mated in quarantine and eggs deposited onto plants or paper. Infested plants and eggs were transported to the field site in Montana where releases were made by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Bozeman Biological Control Facility. The first recovery of this species was made at the Montana release site in September of 1994. Identification of the recovery was verified by the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Beltsville, MD. Another recovery was made in late June 1995.