

Experiences of EUTR checks on paper products in Germany

TREE meeting

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Competent authority

For imports: Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (**BLE**, Federal Agency for Agriculture)

- Central office in Bonn
- Several district offices with control officers

Control of operators (importers):

- Due Diligence System (DDS)
- documents
- Interviewing responsible staff of the company
- Inspecting warehouses
- Taking samples for analysis

Control Approach (1/2)

- ❖ Operators in Germany: ca. 25.000
(of this ca. 11.000 more than two imports/year)
- ❖ BLE controls following a risk based approach:
 - Products, tree species, countries, quantity
 - Using the DDS of a Monitoring Organisation?
- ❖ Control plan is set up every three months: list of operators to control
- ❖ Usually control officers are free to decide when to control whom (within three months)

Control Approach (2/2)


- ❖ In addition: Urgent checks because of „substantiated concerns“
- ❖ With each operator 10 cases are checked in detail
- ❖ Check reports are analysed in the central office of BLE
 - Decisions on sanctions etc.
- ❖ New since 2016: Focus-checks
 - E.g. paper, plywood and fibre-boards from China:
 - 40 checks in 2016/17 of which ...
 - ...26 done, 18 check-reports analysed so far, none of them finds DDS is good enough

Results of some Paper Checks 2015/16

Big company importing pulp from Brazil (plantations):



- ❖ Very good DDS
- ❖ Risk assessment and mitigation: certification, questionnaire and own audits, own microscopic checks of fibres (random)

Importer of paper products from China

- ❖ Insufficient DDS  warning letter (administrative offence, misdemeanor)
- ❖ Subsequent check, 6 months later: DDS now adequate, part of suppliers changed, certified products

Results of Paper Checks in 2015/16 (ctd.)

Company importing paper products from China

- ❖ Checked after substantiated concern by NGO based on analysis of species
- ❖ Insufficient DDS  warning letter
- ❖ Subsequent check, 4 months later: DDS still not adequate  notice of remedial action / injunction (also possible directly, without prior warning letter)
- ❖ Subsequent check: ongoing, no behaviour change would mean fine (up to 50.000. €)

Analysis of samples

BLE takes samples routinely :

at least 2 products, may be more in cases of special risk

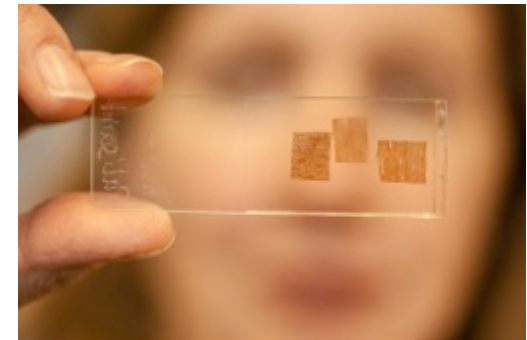
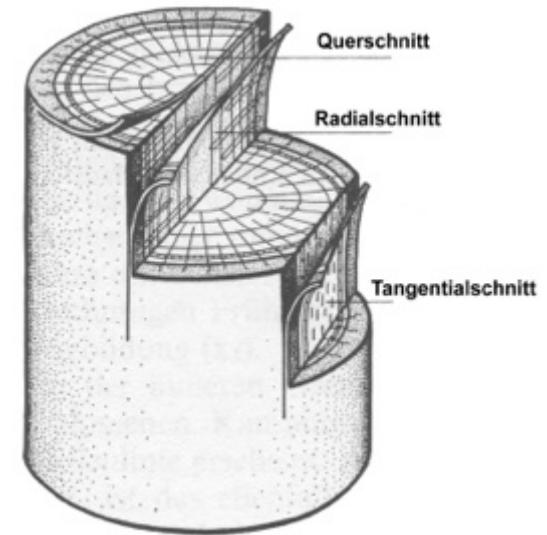
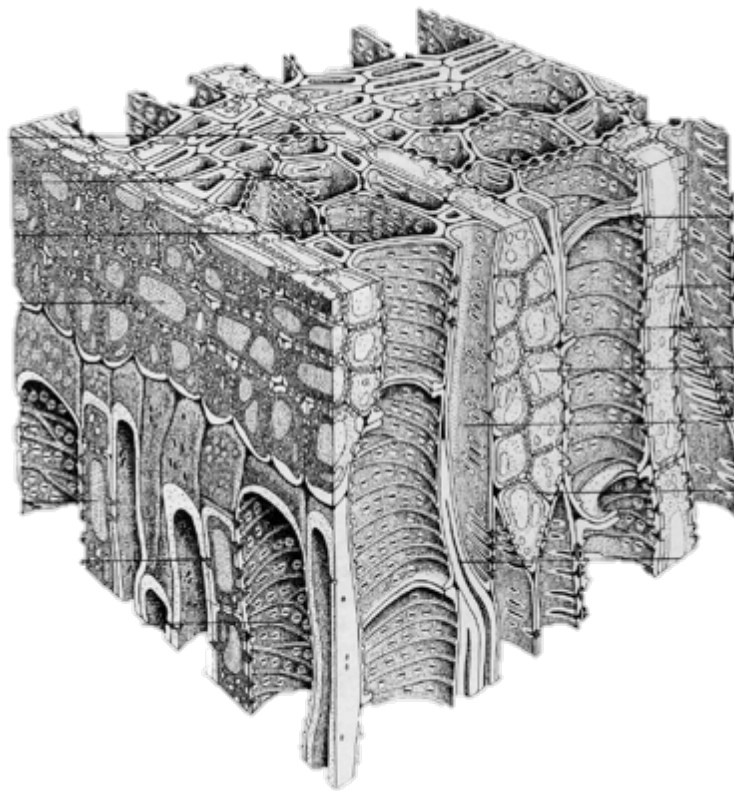
- Samples are analysed for species (origin not possible for paper so far) by national „center of competence on timber origins“
- Also analysis of evidence for use of recycled paper

Paper and fibreboards:

- No macroscopic identification possible
- Mostly mix of different species
- DNA destroyed

Species identification (paper, fibre-boards)

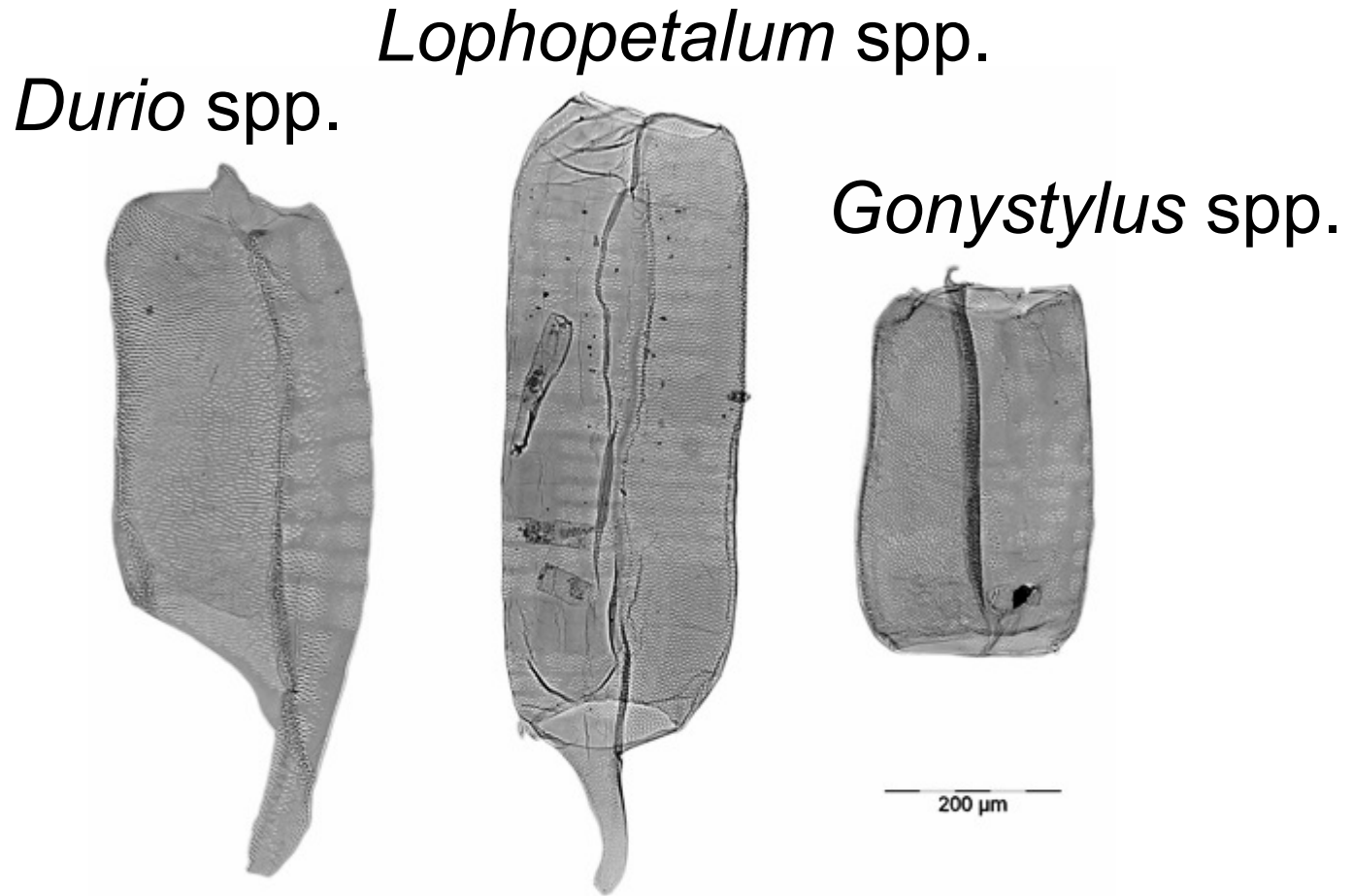
- 3D-Information
- 80 - 100 features



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Foto: Ilja Hendel, Schaubilder: Braune et al. 2007

References for Asian species



Atlas of VESSEL ELEMENTS

Campnosperma sp. (ANACARDIACEAE)

Trade name: *terentang*, *belimbing*, *terentang* (BT); *buah belimbing* (ST);
cempasaka (PL); *mangrove*, *bukuh terentang* (TM); *miperdis*, *ongro*, *Milo* (PA).
Ende (IN 1976-1980): not existing.
Not protected under CITES regulations.

Geographic distribution: Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia.

Vessel elements are long and slim (tube-shaped). The shape is similar to the paracellulose or
tracheids. The length is about 400 µm, the width about 150 µm.

Appendages are either short or long with a smooth throat. The larger appendages are often
covered with pits. Perforation plates are simple or scalariform [6-25 slant bars], often
destroyed.

Remarkable are the large vessel-ray pits. They consist of window-like great apertures,
sometimes subdivided in smaller parts but still large. The shape of these pits varies from
elongated to oval or round. Inter-vessel pitting is fluidlike over a wide area. The pits are
alternately arranged and are of average size, with oval to slit-shaped apertures. They are
similar to the pits in tracheids that are arranged in vertical curved lines. Rarely findable are
pits to fibres, arranged in short single vertical lines. There are large spaces without any pits.
Tyloses are detectable. Medial thickenings are not present.

Table 19 Quantitative data (µm) of vessel elements (length, width, ratio and vessel to parenchyma
pits aperture, border, ratio) of *Campnosperma* sp.

	Length	Width	Length/width	Aperture	Border	Aperture/Border
Minimum	371	132	2.8	1.7	5.6	
75% Quoted	777	189			6.8	
Median	846	252	3.7	3.5	6.2	
25% Quoted	429	144		3.2	5.7	
Maximum	961	139		5.8	4.0	6.2

Fiber dimensions (length weighted average)
length: 950 µm
width: 24.5 µm
cell wall thickness: 7.7 µm

The right page contains several micrographs of vessel elements. At the top left, there's a longitudinal section showing multiple vessels. Below it, another longitudinal section shows a single vessel with clear horizontal perforations. To the right, two more longitudinal sections show different vessel types or details. On the far right, a transverse section shows a circular vessel lumen surrounded by thickened walls. A scale bar at the bottom right indicates 200 µm.

[illegible]

Example

Markers:

Each colour made
of different mix of
species!



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Experience so far and outlook

- Comparison of features of unknown mixed samples with known references works well and fast
- Experience for fibre-boards and paper from Asia: declaration nearly never correct (wrong, missing and/or additional species)!
- Recycling: characteristic pattern (brightener, colour) but problematic for preconsumer-recycling (cut-offs)

Outlook:

- Identification software will be developed
- More references for relevant species

What does this mean for EUTR?

- Wrong declaration of species is a sign that DDS is not working as it should
- Risk for illegality is depending on the species found
- Operator should ask supplier for full declaration of all species that could be included, however this makes DDS very complicated
- Operator should control his supplier, e.g. make use of new methods of species identification

Challenges for BLE

- Only up to 200 operators controls/year possible so far
- High number of subsequent checks necessary
- Juridical difficulties to impose sanctions for insufficient DDS (what is good enough and what should operator have known?)
- Analysis on behalf of NGO can't be accepted for official purpose, sometimes product is no longer available for check of BLE

Possible solutions

- Focus checks: better preparation for control officers, comparison of many different cases
- More use of the possibility to order that timber has to be sent back
- More common investigations with other CAs (so far only with CZ)
- Two more experts will be hired (international forestry / timber experience)
- Questionnaires to certain groups of operators to prepare or substitute on-site controls
- Closer cooperation with NGOs to prepare controls

Questions?

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