

PR 5.1

18 Feb 2003

Plants/Plant Products Importers

Dear Sir/Mdm,

IMPORT OF MEXICAN JUMPING BEANS

The Mexican jumping beans come from the shrub *Sebastiania pavoniana* and *Sapium biloculare*. The insect that infests the above species is a moth *Cydia deshaisiana*.

2 The adult lays its eggs in the seed capsule of the host and its larva after consuming the seed, has the peculiar habit of throwing itself forcibly from one wall to the other wall of the capsule, thereby causing jumping movements.

3 AVA has carried out a risk analysis on the jumping beans and has established that there are close relatives of the host plants and other *Cydia* moths have been present in Singapore and the region.

4 The likelihood of the adaptation and establishment of the insect in Singapore and the region is high. Once established, the moth can be harmful to our environment.

5 In view of the threat the Mexican Jumping Beans bring to our ecosystem, AVA will not allow such imports and will continue to impose a penalty for those who do so.

Yours sincerely,

Ong Ai Khim
Senior Plant Health Officer
For Director-General
Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority