

**'*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*' affecting *Ulmus laevis* in Germany**

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Phytoplasmas are wall-less obligate parasites of the plant phloem causing diseases in many important crops and trees worldwide. '*Candidatus Phytoplasma ulmi*' is a quarantine pest of several *Ulmus* spp. and is associated with phloem necrosis, leaf yellowing, stunting, witches' broom and decline. Initially reported in Northern America, infections were also detected in European countries such as Italy, France, Czech Republic and Serbia. Here, we provide information on the European white elm (*Ulmus laevis*) infected with '*Ca. P. ulmi*' in Berlin and Brandenburg (Germany).

Leaf samples were randomly picked from *U. laevis* trees with and without chlorotic symptoms in the riparian forest Spreewald (N12), the palace garden Caputh (N4) and the experimental garden at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (N42). DNA was extracted by the CTAB approach and applied as template for diagnostic direct and nested PCR targeting the *rRNA* operon of phytoplasmas. The partial sequence of the 16S-*rRNA* gene was determined.

Positive PCR-products were obtained for 30 out of 58 samples and assigned to '*Ca. P. ulmi*' by sequence analysis (99.7-99.9% identity). This is the first report of *U. laevis* infected with '*Ca. P. ulmi*' in Germany.