



CUSTOMS & QUARANTINE AGENCY, GUAM

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Director's Office

Director of Customs – James T. McDonald

Chief of Customs – Vincent S.N. Perez

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Customs Officer makes a First in Nation interception

BARRIGADA, GUAM – The National Identification Services confirmed this morning that an air cargo seizure of fungus onboard a flight from South Korea in December 13, 2016 by a Customs and Quarantine Agency (CQA) officer was a **First in Nation interception**.

On December 13, 2016, a CQA officer was conducting an inspection of Dendrobiums (Orchids), originating from Thailand, and observed leaf spots developing on living leaves as well as a fungus growing on the leaf's underside. A member of the CQA's Biosecurity Unit, the officer held the shipment, took a sample, and sent it to the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) for determination.

Today, USDA APHIS sector Guam received word that this interception was the first interception of this pest from any US Port of Entry. The fungus, *Zasmidium orchidacearum*, is only known from Asia (Brunei, Malaysia).

For more information, please contact our Public Information Officer Ms. Jessi Santos-Torres at (671) 475-6202 or email jessi.santos@cqa.guam.gov.

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