EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION

23-28562

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process[1] for: *Lycium ferocissimum*

Section A. Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment

A.1 Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?

Yes: *Lycium ferocissimum* is native to South Africa (Plants of the World Online, 2023).

A.2 Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment? (if yes goto A5)

Yes. *Lycium ferocissimum* is established in Cyprus, France, Morocco and Spain (EPPO, 2023).

A. 3 Is the plant species known to be invasive outside the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.4 Based on ecoclimatic conditions, could the species establish in the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.5 How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?

High spread potential with moderate uncertainty: *L. ferocissimum* is spread by seeds which can be dispersed over long distances by birds when feeding on the fruits. It can also be spread via stems and rootstock which can regenerate when broken. Seeds can be spread by water movement and by human activities.

A.6 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

High with a moderate uncertainty: *L. ferocissimum* can invaded natural habitats and can form dense stands which can outcompete native plant species and higher trophic levels (Abbott et al., 2000; Noble et al., 2021).

A.7 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

High with a medium uncertainty: *L. ferocissimum* has been reported to harbour pest species such as Bactericera cockerelli. Additionally, in Australia, the species has been shown to be difficult and expensive to control in agricultural habitats (Noble et al., 2021).

[1] EPPO (2012) EPPO Prioritization process for invasive alien plants. EPPO Bulletin 42, 463-474.

A.8 How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?

Moderate with a medium uncertainty: *L. ferocissimum* can significantly restrict access to areas for recreation as it forms thick stands (Noble et al., 2021). The sharp spines can harm livestock and damage vehicles.

Outcome of Section A: *Lycium ferocissimum* is included on the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants

		A5 -Spread potential		
		Low	Medium	High
Adverse impacts (maximum rating from questions A6, A7 and A8.	Low	List of minor concern	List of minor concern	List of minor concern
	Medium	List of minor concern	Observation List	Observation List
	High	Observation List	Observation List	List of invasive alien plants

B. Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1 Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

Yes. Potential pathways include plants for planting. The species has been traded and grown in private gardens and botanical gardens. It is available via internet trade in the EPPO region. Other pathways include as a contaminant of used machinery and equipment.

B.2 Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

Yes. The risk of introduction by the pathway plants for planting is superior to the natural spread of the species.

B.3 Does the plant species still have a significant area suitable for further spread in the area under assessment?

Yes. Currently, *L. ferocissimum* has a limited occurrence in the EPPO region and further establishment is likely.

Outcome of section B: *L. ferocissimum* is a high priority for an EPPO PRA

Selected references

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