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Reporting

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EPPO *Reporting Service*

2003/014 News from the Diagnostic Centre of the Dutch NPPO - 2001

The EPPO Secretariat has extracted the following points from the 2001 Annual Report of the Diagnostic Centre of the Dutch NPPO.

In September 2001, *Cacopsylla fulguralis* (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha – EPPO Alert List) was identified on *Elaeagnus* in a Dutch nursery. Later in the year, nymphs and adults were collected from another nursery near the first finding. It is noted that there was no specific damage on the plants.

Survey on *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) continued in 2001. No beetle was found in the Netherlands.

A new *Fusarium* species causing basal rot and wilt has been observed on *Begonia x elatior* during winter 2000/2001. As this new disease may present a significant risk, the EPPO Secretariat will look for more information to appear in a later issue.

Gibberella acutata (anamorph *Colletotricum acutatum* - EU Annexes) was found on *Lupinus* and *Philodendron*.

Impatiens necrotic spot tospovirus (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) has been detected in new host plants: *Antirrhinum major, Aphelandra*, and *Saintpaulia*.

A nation-wide survey is being carried out in the Netherlands for *Phytophthora ramorum* (EPPO Alert List). More than 200 localities were inspected, including forests, lane trees, gardens, nurseries, flower and nursery plant sellers. *P. ramorum* was found in a few cases: 12 *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum bodnantense* plants in nurseries, and 10 *Rhododendron* plants in public gardens or forest. In all cases, neighbouring oak stands did no show any visible symptoms of the disease. In nurseries, all infected plants were destroyed, and in gardens diseased parts of plants were removed.

In October 2001, one adult of *Scyphophorus acupunctatus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae – EPPO Alert List) was found in a glasshouse in Amsterdam on a dying *Yucca* plant. An adult and a larva were also collected from a *Beaucarnea* plant in Rijsenhout.

Potato bacteria: during the 2001 survey, approximately 72,000 potato samples were tested.
Clavibacter michiganensis subsp. *sepedonicus* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest): 5 places of production (including 2 with seed potatoes) were found infected. Ring rot was also detected on imported industrial and ware potatoes (16 samples).

Ralstonia solanacearum (EPPO A2 quarantine pest): 15 places of production (including 11 with seed potatoes) were found infected. Samples of surface water and weeds (mainly *Solanum dulcamara*) were also tested. The bacterium was found in 12.6% of water samples et in 7.3% of weed samples (all *S. dulcamara*). These potato bacteria are under official control.

In October 2001, *Potato spindle tuber pospiviroid* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) was detected in a tomato sample from the Netherlands. The origin of this isolated infestation could not be traced.

Synchytrium endobioticum (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) was detected in 2 new locations in the south of the Netherlands, and 3 new locations in the north-eastern part. Descheduling of 8 fields in the north-east and 6 fields in the south-east was achieved. So far, only pathotypes 1 and 2 occurred in the Netherlands, but recently pathovar 6 was also detected in the northeast at Wezuperbrug (see also Stachewicz & Baayen, 2003).

A thrips resembling *Thrips palmi* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A1 quarantine pest) was found on *Serissa* bonsai plants in the province of Zuid-Holland in June 2001. It lacked some of the regular characters of the species. Finally, it was identified as *T. palmi*, but this '*Serissa'* form can be distinguished from the 'regular' form by a few minor and variable characters of the adults. Containment and eradication measures were taken.

Tomato spotted wilt tospovirus (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) has been detected in a new host plant: *Ligularia cristata*.

In 2001, *Xanthomonas axonopodis* pv. *dieffenbachiae* (EPPO A1 quarantine pest) was detected in five samples of *Anthurium* received from two cut flower production places. Eradication measures were taken.

Source: Annual Report 2001, Diagnostic Centre, Plant Protection Service, 135 pp.

Stachewicz, H.; Baayen, R.; (2003) [Identification of a new pathotype of potato wart, *Synchytrium endobioticum* (Schilb.) Perc. in the Netherlands.]
Nachrichtenblatt des Deutschen Planzenschutzdienstes, 55(1), 6-9.

Additional key words: detailed records, new host plants

Computer codes: COLLAC, CORBSE, CORBSE, DIABVI, INSV00, PHYTRA, PSDSMO, PSTVD0, PSYLSP, SCYPIN, SYNCEN, THRIPL, TSWV00, XANTDE, NL

2003/015 Status of *Thaumetotibia* (*Cryptophlebia*) *leucotreta* in Israel

In connection with the preparation of a CABI/EPPO map of this species, it was found that only one old published record existed. However, the status of *Thaumetotibia* (*Cryptophlebia*) *leucotreta* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) in Israel is now officially declared by the NPPO as 'present, but of limited distribution, limited host range and subject to official control'. *T. leucotreta* is considered as a quarantine pest for Israel and appears on the official list appended to the Israeli Plant Import Regulations. According to Hamburger *et al*. (2000), only macadamia (*Macadamia terniflora*, no longer commercially grown), castorbean (*Ricinus communis*, wild) and cotton are known to host this pest in Israel. Citrus is not considered to be a host plant, as citrus fruit samples consistently show no infestation. Detection and monitoring programmes are ongoing. They include routine and directed inspections of fields and orchards, and regular checking of approximately 200 pheromone traps spread across the country, particularly in buffer zones around the delimited area of infestation. Control measures (use of natural enemies) are being applied.

Source: **NPPO of Israel, 2003-01.**

Hamburger, M.; Zarabi, L.; Weiss, M.; Argaman, Q.; Kuslitzky, W.; Kein, Z. (2000) False coldling moth (*Cryptophlebia leucotreta*) in Israel.
Phytoparasitica, 29(1), p 84. [Also available on Internet: Abstracts of Presentations at the 18th Conference of the Entomological Society of Israel http://www.phytoparasitica.org/phyto/vol29.html]

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes :** ARGPLE, IL

2003/016 *Thrips palmi* does not occur in Slovakia

Dr Vierbergen informed the EPPO Secretariat that the following literature record mentioning the presence of *Thrips palmi* (EPPO A1 quarantine pest) in Slovakia is invalid.

"Thrips palmi Karny, 1925 (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) **does not** occur in Slovakia. This report refers to the recent paper on the occurrence of *Thrips palmi* in a Slovakian greenhouse (FEDOR, P.J., MAJZLAN, O., 2002: *Thrips palmi* Karny, 1925 (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) – škodca skleníkov na Slovensku. In: JANITOR, A., Ochrana rastlín v III. Miléniu – Zborník z konferencie k 50. výročiu založenia Ústavu experimentálnej fytopatológie a entomológie SAV, p. 104 – 106, Ivanka pri Dunaji, VEDA, 147 pp.). Reexamination of the specimens concerned showed that they were misidentified and belong to *Drepanothrips reuteri* Uzel. The situation of *Thrips palmi* in Slovakia can be described as follows: **Absent, pest record invalid**."

Source: **Dr. Peter Fedor**, Department of Ecosozology, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Mlynská dolina, 842 15 Bratislava, Slovakia.
Mr. Bert Vierbergen, Plant Protection Service, Section of Entomology, P.O. Box 9102, 6700 HC WAGENINGEN, The Netherlands.

Additional key words: misidentification, absence **Computer codes:** THRIPL, SK

2003/017 Further details on the situation of *Diabrotica virgifera* in Austria

Further details on the extent of the outbreak of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) in Austria in 2002 were provided by the NPPO (see also EPPO RS 2002/109 & 2002/ 140). In 2002, the pest was found in Niederösterreich (districts of Gänserndorf, Bruck /Leitha) and in Burgenland (districts of Neusiedl-am-See, Oberpullendorf). In 2003, the following phytosanitary measures will be taken in both regions: monitoring, crop rotation (compulsory crop rotation on infested fields), use of pesticides, restrictions on the movement of host plants and parts thereof, and of soil and machinery. During winter 2002/2003, an information campaign took place and a leaflet on *D. virgifera* was printed. In addition, an intensive monitoring programme with pheromone traps will be carried out in the whole country

Source: **NPPO of Austria, 2003-02**

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** DIABVI, AT

2003/018 Finding of *Popillia japonica* in Nova Scotia, Canada

Until summer 2001, *Popillia japonica* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest) was only reported in Canada in small areas in the provinces of Ontario and Québec. An earlier infestation in Nova Scotia had been eradicated in 1951. In August 2001, feeding adults of *P. japonica* were identified in Cornwallis Park, in Halifax (Nova Scotia). Traps were placed in the park and within a radius of 1.6 km around it. As a result, more than 800 adults were caught (600 in the park itself). Soil surveys were done around all positive traps and larvae were identified within the limits of the park. So far, it has not been possible to trace back the source of this infestation. As the distribution of *P. japonica* is limited, eradication appears feasible. Phytosanitary measures will include restrictions on the movement of potentially infested material, intensive trapping of adults, removal of preferred host plants for larvae, chemical treatments etc. Surveys will continue to monitor the situation of *P. japonica* in the park and its vicinity.

Source: Miller-Cormier, D. (2002) Japanese beetle in Halifax, Nova Scotia. **NAPPO Newsletter, September, p. 9**

Additional key words: detailed record, eradication **Computer codes:** POPIJA, CA

2003/019 First report of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Belgium

In May 2002, a *Viburnum bodnantense* plant showing wilting, brown discoloration of the leaves, discoloured vascular tissues and root necrosis, was observed in a Belgian ornamental nursery importing plants from the Netherlands. Laboratory studies (morphological characteristics, molecular and pathogenicity tests) confirmed the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum* (EPPO Alert List). Since this first observation, *P. ramorum* has been found in other Belgian nurseries on *Rhododendron yakusimanum*.
The situation of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Belgium can be described as follows: **Present, found in a few nurseries on *Viburnum* and *Rhododendron*.**

Source: De Merlier, D.; Chandelier, A.; Cavelier, M. (2003) First report of *Phytophthora ramorum* on *Viburnum bodnantse* in Belgium. **Plant Disease, 87(2), p 203.**

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** PHYTRA, BE

2003/020 First report of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Sweden

In summer 2002, surveys were initiated in Sweden for the presence of *Phytophthora ramorum* (EPPO Alert List) on *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum*, particularly on plants imported from Germany and the Netherlands. Until December 2002, 11 infestations were found only on rhododendron. The first case was found in June 2002 in cultivar Grandiflorum imported from the Netherlands. Infestations have also been found in plants coming from Germany.
The situation of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Sweden can be described as follows: **Present, found only on rhododendron plants.**

Source: NPPO of Sweden, 2002-12.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** PHYTRA, SE

2003/021 Finding of *Liriomyza huidobrensis* in Finland

The NPPO of Finland informed the EPPO Secretariat of one finding of *Liriomyza huidobrensis* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest). The pest was found during November 2002 at one nursery producing pot plants and cut flowers under glass. Phytosanitary measures (destruction of infected plants and appropriate treatments) were taken to eradicate the pest. The situation of *Liriomyza huidobrensis* in Finland can be described as follows: **Present, found in one nursery (glasshouses), under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Finland, 2002-12.

Additional key words: phytosanitary incident **Computer codes:** LIRIHU, FI

2003/022 2002 surveys on *Erwinia amylovora, Tomato spotted wilt tospovirus* and several glasshouse pests in Estonia

The NPPO of Estonia has informed the EPPO Secretariat of the results concerning several surveys carried out in 2002.

Erwinia amylovora (EPPO A2 quarantine pest): surveys have been done since 2000. In 2002, 330 samples were collected from all districts and were tested by IF. Samples were collected essentially from *Malus, Pyrus, Sorbus, Cotoneaster, Crataegus, Chaenomeles, Amelanchier, Cydonia* in parks, orchards, nurseries etc. *E. amylovora* was not detected.
The situation of *E. amylovora* in Estonia can be described as follows: **Absent, confirmed by surveys.**

Glasshouse pests
91 samples were collected from 35 glasshouses and examined for the presence of *Thrips palmi*, *Liriomyza* species and *Bemisia tabaci*. Samples were collected from tomato, cucumber, pepper, ornamental pot plants and cut flowers. *Liriomyza bryoniae* (EU Annexes) was found in 14 samples of tomato (12 cases) and cucumber (2 cases). Its presence was confirmed in 9 glasshouses. Other pests were not detected.
The situation of *Liriomyza bryoniae* in Estonia can be described as follows: **Present, found in a few glasshouses.**
The situation of *Bemisia tabaci, Liriomyza huidobrensis, L. trifolii, L. sativae* and *Thrips palmi* in Estonia can be described as follows: **Absent, confirmed by surveys.**

Tomato spotted wilt tospovirus (EPPO A2 quarantine pest): 63 samples were collected from ornamental and vegetable plants in 19 glasshouses. The virus was detected in 2 samples of *Impatiens* and *Begonia*. Phytosanitary measures were taken to eradicate it. Glasshouses will stay under strict supervision during the next growing season. The situation of *Tomato spotted wilt tospovirus* in Estonia can be described as follows: **Present, found under glasshouse on 2 samples, under eradication.**

Source: **NPPO of Estonia, 2002-12.**

Additional key words: absence, detailed record

Computer codes: ERWIAM, LIROBO, LIRIHU, LIRITR, LIRISA, THRIPL, TSWV, EE

2003/023 *Erwinia amylovora* found on the south-western coast of Norway

The NPPO of Norway recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of a new finding of *Erwinia amylovora* (EPPO A2 quarantine pest). In July 2002, the Norwegian Agricultural Inspection Service detected fireblight at several locations on the south-western coast of Norway. Two years ago, fireblight (thought to be extinct in Norway) was detected in the south-western counties Rogaland and Hordaland (see EPPO RS 2000/135). Eradication measures are being taken and include: surveys to delimitate infected areas, destruction of all infected plants and nearby host plants, restrictions on transportation of bee hives. The situation of *E. amylovora* in Norway can be described as follows: **Present, found in several locations on the south-western coast, under eradication.**

Source: **NPPO of Norway, 2002-08.**
Web site of the Norwegian Agricultural Inspection Service.
Fire blight found in southwestern Norway
http://www.landbrukstilsynet.no/dokument_eng.cfm?m_id=163&d_id=1348

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** ERWIAM, NO

2003/024 *Parasaissetia nigra* found in Côte d'Azur, in France

The NPPO of France recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that *Parasaissetia nigra* (EU Annexes) has been found in Côte d'Azur (south of France) on various ornamental plants. A few females were collected in 2002 on *Bulbine frutescens*. Further studies revealed that it had been already collected on *Aloe* in 1978 and *Hibiscus* in 1982 at Antibes. In 1933, it had also been found on *Musa* in an exotic glasshouse of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris. In the south of France, *P. nigra*, does not cause any damage to ornamentals and so far, it has not been seen on citrus.
The situation of *Parasaissetia nigra* in France can be described as follows: **Present, low populations occur in Côte d'Azur on ornamentals.**

Source: **NPPO of France, 2002-12.**
Germain, J.F.; Bertaux, F. 2003) *Parasaissetia nigra* (Nietner) hôte méconnu sur la Côte d'azur, PHM (in press).

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** SAISNI, FR

2003/025 Outbreak of *Spodoptera litura* in aquarium plants in Germany

In April 2002, and again in July 2002, *Spodoptera litura* (EPPO A1 quarantine pest) was detected in a glasshouse of a company propagating and producing aquarium plants. The company is located in Baden-Württemberg. Larvae were detected on mother plants of *Ludwigia* and *Eichhornia* sp. The plants showed symptoms of feeding. Eradication measures have been taken, and the company is being subject to regular inspections. The infestation is most likely due to introduction with aquatic plants that are regularly imported by the company from Far East countries (Indonesia or Singapore).
The NPPO of Germany declares the **pest status of *Spodoptera litura* as: Transcient: actionable, under eradication.**

Source: **NPPO of Germany, 2003-01.**

Additional key words: phytosanitary incident **Computer codes:** PRODLI, DE

2003/026 First report of *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* in Japan

In 2001, symptoms characterized by yellowing, interveinal chlorosis, leaf rolling and necrotic fleck were observed on glasshouse- and field-grown tomatoes in Gunma and Tochigi Prefectures, Honshu, Japan. The disease was associated with high populations of *Trialeurodes vaporariorum*. Studies (molecular tests, whitefly transmission) confirmed the presence of *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* (TICV - EPPO Alert List). This is the first report of TICV in Japan.
The situation of *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* in Japan can be described as follows: **Present, found in both glasshouse and field tomatoes in Gunma and Tochigi Prefectures, Honshu**.

Source: Hartono, S.; Natsuaki, T.; Sayama, H.; Atarashi, H.; Okuda, S. (2003) Yellowing disease of tomatoes caused by *Tomato infectious chlorosis virus* newly recognized in Japan.
Journal of General Plant Pathology, 69(1), 61-64.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** TICV, JP

2003/027 Present situation of five tomato and cucurbit viruses in France

The present situation in France of five tomato and cucurbit viruses, now subjected to an official decree of compulsory control, is given below.

Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder crinivirus (CYSDV - EPPO Alert List): during winter 2001/2002, two outbreaks were detected in Languedoc-Roussillon on cucurbits grown under glasshouses, and successfully eradicated.

Tomato chlorosis crinivirus (ToCV – EPPO Alert List): in 2002, ToCV was detected for the first time in the south of France in Languedoc-Roussillon and Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur. Phytosanitary measures were taken to eradicate these isolated outbreaks, according to the official decree of compulsory control.

Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus (TYLCV – EPPO A2 quarantine pest): in 1999 an outbreak of TYLCV was found in the South of France and successfully eradicated (see EPPO RS 2000/094 & 2000/168). On the 9th of July 2002 another outbreak was observed in Bouches-du-Rhône, at some distance from the earlier one. The virus was found on tomatoes grown under plastic tunnels at Eygalières (canton of Orgon, east of St Rémi de Provence). Tomato seedlings had recently been imported from Spain. Eradication measures have immediately been taken: destruction of tomatoes and plastic tunnels, strict surveillance of the canton where the virus was discovered and surrounding ones. No other outbreak was found in this region, but monitoring will continue.

During surveys, *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* and *Cucumber vein yellowing ipomovirus* (both on the EPPO Alert List) were not detected in France.

The situation of the following viruses in France and be described as follows:
Cucumber vein yellowing ipomovirus: **Absent, confirmed by survey.**
Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder crinivirus: **Absent, eradicated**.
Tomato chlorosis crinivirus: **Present, 2 outbreaks found in Languedoc-Roussillon and Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur, under eradication**.
Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus: **Absent, confirmed by survey.**
Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus: **Present, 1 outbreak found at Eygalières (Bouches-du-Rhône), under eradication**.

Source: Anonymous (2002) Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. Où l'on reparle du TYLCV sur tomate.
Phytoma – La Défense des Végétaux, n° 553, p 5.

Anonymous (2002) Arrêté du 8 juillet 2002 relatif à la lutte contre les virus Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus (TYLCV), Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder crinivirus (CYSDV), Tomato chlorosis crinivirus (ToCV), Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus (TICV) et Cucumber vein yellowing ipomovirus. Journal Officiel, no. 168, 20 juillet 2002, p 12149.

Decoin, M. (2003) Tomates et concombres, gare aux nouveaux virus. A propos de cinq organismes 'à lutte obligatoire'.
Phytoma – La Défense des Végétaux, n° 558, 27-29.

Additional key words: new record, detailed record, absence **Computer codes:** CYSDV, CVYV, TICV, ToCV, FR

2003/028 First report of Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder, Tomato chlorosis and Tomato infectious chlorosis criniviruses in Greece

In 1997, yellowing symptoms were observed, at low incidence, on glasshouse tomato plants in southern Greece and Crete. By 2001, the distribution and incidence had increased to the majority of glasshouse tomatoes. In most cases, disease incidence reached 80 to 90 %, or even 100%. In field-grown tomatoes, similar symptoms appeared but at lower incidence. These epidemics were associated with high populations of whiteflies (*Trialeurodes vaporariorum* and *Bemisia tabaci*). Molecular tests revealed the presence of Tomato chlorosis (ToCV) and Tomato infectious chlorosis (TICV) criniviruses (both on the EPPO Alert List). In a large scale study, infected tomato samples were collected from mainland Greece (mainly Peloponese but also Macedonia), and from the islands of Poros, Rhodos and Crete. TICV was found in the majority of symptomatic samples (89 %), including in some samples collected from open-fields. ToCV was detected in tomato samples from Rhodos, Poros, Crete and Pella (Macedonia), but only in glasshouse tomatoes. A few mixed infections were detected in Crete and Poros. This is the first report of Tomato chlorosis and Tomato infectious chlorosis criniviruses in Greece.
The situation of *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* in Greece can be described as follows: **Present, widespread in glasshouse tomatoes (mainland Greece: Peloponese, Macedonia, islands of Poros, Rhodos, Crete), few reports from field-grown tomatoes.**
The situation of *Tomato chlorosis crinivirus* in Greece can be described as follows: **Present, found only in glasshouse tomatoes (mainland Greece: Macedonia, islands of Poros, Rhodos, Crete).**

Note: In the same paper, the presence of *Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder crinivirus* (EPPO Alert List) is reported on cucumber and melon, from the islands of Rhodos and Poros, and Leonidio in eastern Peloponese. The EPPO Secretariat had previously no data on its occurrence in Greece.
The situation of *Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder crinivirus* in Greece can be described as follows: **Present, few reports (mainland Greece: eastern Peloponese, islands of Poros and Rhodos).**

Source: Dovas, C.I.; Katis, N.I.; Avgelis, A.V. (2002) Multiplex detection of criniviruses associated with epidemics of a yellowing disease of tomato in Greece.
Plant Disease, 86(12), 1345-1349

Additional key words: new records **Computer codes:** CYSDV, TICV, ToCV, GR

2003/029 First report of *Beet necrotic yellow vein benyvirus* in Michigan (US)

In autumn 2002, mature sugar beet plants showing symptoms of rhizomania (*Beet necrotic yellow vein benyvirus* – EPPO A2 quarantine pest) were observed in several fields scattered throughout central and eastern Michigan. Analysis of root samples (inoculation to indicator plants, ELISA) confirmed the presence of the virus. Further studies showed that infected fields were widely dispersed within a 160 km² area in Michigan (including portions of Gratiot, Saginaw, Tuscola, Sanilac counties). It is stressed that this is the first report of rhizomania in the Great Lakes region which is one of the major sugar beet-producing areas in North America (approximately 75,000 ha in 2002).

Source: Wintermantel, W.; Crook, T.; Fogg, R. (2003) First report of rhizomania disease of sugar beet caused by *Beet necrotic yellow vein benyvirus* in the Great Lakes production region.
Plant Disease, 87(2), p 201.

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** BNYVV, US

2003/030 Studies on coconut lethal yellowing phytoplasma in Cuba

In Cuba, coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) is cultivated all over the country, but the main traditional cultivation areas are in Baracoa (Guantánamo Province), Niquero and Pilón (Granma Province). In Cuba, lethal yellowing has been observed for more than 100 years. Coconuts in the main growing areas were seriously affected by the disease from the end of the 19th century until the 1920s/1930s. A severe outbreak occurred in the 1960s in Niquero, killing the majority of the plants. From 1985 to 1990, the disease destroyed coconut cultivation in the Pilón area. Recent molecular studies showed for the first time that coconut lethal yellowing phytoplasma (EPPO A1 quarantine pest) could be detected in diseased coconuts, confirming its presence in Cuba. Comparison of sequences of Cuban isolates (Havana, Maísi) with a Mexican isolate (Yucatán), showed that isolates from Yucatán and Havana were closely related, but presented some difference with isolates from Maísi (eastern Cuba).

Source: Llauger, R.; Becker, D.; Cueto, J.; Peralta, E.; González, V.; Rodríguez, M.; Rohde, W. (2002) Detection and molecular characterization of phytoplasma associated with lethal yellowing disease of coconut palms in Cuba.
Journal of Phytopathology, 150(7), 390-395.

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** PHYP56, CU

2003/031 *Coniothyrium zuluense*, a new canker disease of eucalyptus: addition to the EPPO Alert List

A new canker disease of eucalyptus was first observed in South Africa in 1989, and the causal agent was later characterized as *Coniothyrium zuluense*. The disease was first noticed in an isolated location in Kwazulu Natal (Zululand), and is now common in sub-tropical regions of South Africa. It is considered as one of the most serious problems affecting commercial forestry in Kwazulu Natal. *C. zuluense* causes measle-like necrotic spots on stems and branches. These develop into large girdling cankers that reduce wood quality and may lead to the death of trees. In 1996, a similar disease was observed on *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* in Thailand. Molecular studies showed that although the fungi from South Africa and Thailand presented some differences, they belonged to the same species *C. zuluense*. More recently, during a survey carried out in Tabasco state, Mexico, canker symptoms were observed on *E. grandis* trees. The causal agent was identified as *C. zuluense*. Comparison studies showed that the Mexican isolates are closer to those from South Africa than to isolates from Thailand. As *C. zuluense* is apparently emerging and reported to be very damaging, the EPPO Secretariat decided to add it to the EPPO Alert List, bearing in mind that other canker diseases such as *Cryphonectria cubensis* could also be considered later.

Coniothyrium zuluense (canker of *Eucalyptus*)

Why	*Coniothyrium zuluense* came to our attention as a 'new' and severe disease reported in several countries in very different parts of the world.
Where	*C. zuluense* was first described in South Africa (most severe in Kwazulu Natal, less severe in Mpumalanga (formerly Eastern Transvaal)), and later found in Thailand and Mexico.
On which plants	*Eucalyptus* species (at least *E. camaldulensis*, *E. grandis, E. urophylla, E. tereticornis, E. nitens,* more data needed on host range).
Damage	Infection initially causes measle-like necrotic spots on stems and branches. These develop into large girdling cankers that reduce wood quality and may lead to tree death. Copious amounts of red/brown kino (gum) exude from the lesions.
Dissemination	Data is lacking on the biology and epidemiology of the fungus. It has been observed that small, single-celled spores infect stems directly through the epidermis of the young tissues.
Pathway	Plants for planting, cut branches, wood of eucalyptus from countries where *C. zuluense* occurs.
Possible risks	*Eucalyptus* are grown in the EPPO region for forestry and ornamental purposes. So far, *C. zuluense* occurs mainly in sub-tropical areas, but more data is needed on its biology. In South Africa, *C. zuluense* is considered as a severe disease of eucalyptus forests and a limiting factor to tree propagation, but data is lacking on its impact in Thailand or Mexico. The present geographical distribution is very scattered and could perhaps reflect different introductions which would mean that the pathogen has possibilities to move over long distances (but this has not been demonstrated). In the literature, *C. zuluense* is considered as a serious threat to eucalyptus production.
Source(s)	Ciesla, W.M.; Diekmann, M.; Putter, C.A.J. (eds) (1996) FAO/IPGRI Technical Guidelines for the Safe Movement of Germplasm no. 17. Eucalyptus, 66 pp. FAO, Rome. Roux, J.; Wingfield, M.J.; Cibrián, D. (2002) First report of *Coniothyrium* canker on *Eucalyptus* in Mexico. Plant Pathology, 51(3), p 382. (also on New Disease Reports http://www.bspp.org.uk/ndr/jan2002/2001-38.htm) Wingfield, M.J.; Crous, P.W.; Coutinho, T.A. (1997) A serious canker disease of *Eucalyptus* in South Africa caused by a new species of *Coniothyrium*. Mycopathologia, 136(3), 139-145. INTERNET Web site of the University of Pretoria (ZA) Van Zyl, L.M.; Wingfield, M.J.; Coutinho, T.A.; Wingfield, B.D.; Pongpanich, K. (1999) Molecular relatedness of geographically diverse isolates of *Coniothyrum zuluense* from South Africa and Thailand. http://www.up.ac.za/acadmic/fabi/tpcp/newsletters/may99/1999-4.htm Van Zyl, L.M.; Coutinho, T.A.; Wingfield, M.J. (1999) Morphological, cultural and pathogenic characteristics of *Coniothyrium zuluense* isolates from different plantation regions in South Africa. http:// www.up.ac.za/acadmic/fabi/tpcp/newsletters/nov99/page15.html

EPPO RS 2003/031

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2003/032 Interceptions of *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*

In 2001, *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae – EPPO Alert List) was intercepted in France on two imported consignments of *Cycas* plants. The pest is not established in France, but it is felt that it could represent a threat to *Cycas* species grown under glass or in Mediterranean gardens.

Source: Germain, J.F. (2002) *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* Takagi : un risque pour les cycas. **PHM – Revue Horticole, no. 440, 43-44.**

Additional key words: interceptions **Computer codes :** AULSYA, FR

2003/033 Sodium arsenite has never been used against grapevine bois noir phytoplasma

Contrary to the statement appearing in EPPO RS 2003/012 on the situation of grapevine yellows in France, sodium arsenite (which has now been withdrawn) had never been used against grapevine bois noir phytoplasma in France, but was used against esca (a wood disease of uncertain aetiology, involving a complex of fungal pathogens).

Source: Personal communication with B. Herlemont, 2003-03.