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2003/141 New data on quarantine pests and pests of the EPPO Alert List

By browsing through the literature, the EPPO Secretariat has extracted the following new data concerning quarantine pests and pests included on the EPPO Alert List. The situation of the pest concerned is indicated in bold, using the terms of ISPM no. 8.

- **New geographical records**

Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens pv. *flaccumfaciens* (EPPO A2 list) is reported for the first time from Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada (Huang *et al*., 2003). A survey carried out in 2001 revealed that the disease was widespread in the dry bean production regions of southern Alberta, and also occurred in Saskatchewan. There had been in the past a single record in 1954, but as C. *flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* was no longer observed, it was considered as absent from Canada. **Present, found in 2001 in Alberta and Saskatchewan.**

- **Detailed records**

During a survey done in 2002 in Québec and Ontario (Canada), symptoms of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* (EPPO A2 list) were observed at 42 locations in 10 counties of Ontario. The disease was not found in Québec (Zhu *et al*., 2003).

During a survey done in 2002 in Québec and Ontario (Canada), severe damage of *Helicoverpa zea* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae - EPPO A1 list) was observed on several farms in Québec (Labelle county). The presence of the pest was also recorded in Ontario (Zhu *et al*., 2003).

Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. *dieffenbachiae* (EPPO A1 list) was first reported in Trinidad in 1990. It has caused significant losses to most of the commercial growers since its first discovery (Dilbar & Gosine, 2003).

Xanthomonas axonopodis pv. *phaseoli* (EPPO A2 list) occurs in bean crops in Manitoba, Canada (Yager & Conner, 2003).

- **New host plants**

The Southwestern dwarf mistletoe, *Arceuthobium vaginatum* subsp. *cryptopodum* (EPPO A1 list) is a serious and common pathogen of *Pinus ponderosa* in southern parts of USA and in northern Mexico. In July 2002, *A. vaginatum* subsp. *cryptopodum* was observed for the first time on the exotic European *P. mugo*. This tree was growing near infested *P. ponderosa* (Mathiasen *et al*., 2003).

In Hungary, *Sambucus nigra* (elderberry) is reported as a new host plant for *Helicoverpa armigera* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae - EPPO A2 list). Serious damage was observed in a young plantation at Inárcs in August 2002 (Dömötör, 2003).

In Florida, *Tomato spotted wilt tospovirus* (EPPO A2 list) was found for the first time on outdoor-grown *Hosta* plants. Symptoms included leaf necrosis, stunting, chlorotic and necrotic spots and distinctive ring patterns (Momol *et al*., 2003).

Source:

Dilbar, A.; Gosine, S. (2003) Evaluation of susceptibility of anthurium hybrids to Pseudomonas blight (*Acidovorax anthurii* sp.) and anthurium bacterial blight (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *dieffenbachiae*). **CARAPHIN News, no. 23, 4-6.**

Dömötör, I. (2003) [A new pest of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* L. 1753): the cotton bollworm (*Helicoverpa armigera* Hübner 1808). **Növényvédelem, 39(8), 391-393.**

Huang, H.C.; Hsieh, T.F.; Erickson, R.S. (2003) Distribution of new seed-borne diseases of dry bean in Alberta and Saskatchewan in 2001. Canadian Plant Disease Survey. 2003. Disease highlights. Canadian Phytopathological Society. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 90-91.

Momol, M.T.; Dankers, H.; Adkins, S. (2003) First report of *Tomato spotted wilt virus* in *Hosta* in Florida. Plant Health Progress (on-line).
http://www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/pub/php/brief/2003/hosta/

Mathiasen, R.; Haefeli, M.; Leatherman, D. (2003) First report of *Arceuthobium vaginatum* subsp. *cryptopodum* on *Pinus mugo*. **Plant Disease, 87(11), p 1395.**

Yager, L.; Conner, R.L. (2003) Diseases of field bean in Manitoba in 2002.
Canadian Plant Disease Survey. 2003. Disease highlights. Canadian Phytopathological Society. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 92-93.

Zhu, X.; Reid, L.M.; Woldemariam, T.; Tenuta, A.; Jay, S.; Lachance, P. (2003) Survey of corn diseases and pests in Ontario and Québec in 2002.
Canadian Plant Disease Survey. 2003. Disease highlights. Canadian Phytopathological Society. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 81-84.

Additional key words: new record, detailed record, new host plants

Computer codes: AREVA, CORBFL, ERWIST, HELIAR, HELIZA, TSWV00, XANTDF, XANTPH, CA, HU, TT, US

2003/142 First report of *Diabrotica virgifera* in the Netherlands

On 14 August 2003, 2 adult specimens of *Diabrotica virgifera* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae – EPPO A2 list) were trapped in a maize field near Schiphol Airport. This is the first report of this pest in the Netherlands. A quarantine area of 1 km radius around the field where the 2 adults were found was demarcated immediately after the finding. The organism was found in an urban area. Three maize fields (in total 6 ha) are present in the quarantine area. A regulation for *Diabrotica* was drawn up and was published in the official journal. The regulation follows the control measures described in the EU Commission proposal to eradicate the organism. In the quarantine area, the three maize fields were treated with the insecticide deltamethrin on the 18th of August. The treatment was repeated after 2 weeks. The other measures described in the Commission proposal will also be imposed. A crop rotation whereby maize is grown only once during any period of 3 consecutive years will be put into force. A buffer zone of 5 km radius around the fields of capture has been demarcated. In this zone, a crop rotation of 1 maize crop in 2 years has been imposed. In both the quarantine area and the buffer zone, monitoring will be intensified immediately.
The declared status of *D. virgifera* in the Netherlands is: **Few specimens trapped near Schiphol Airport, under eradication.**

Source: **Web site of Plantenziektenkundige Dienst - Press release of 2003-08-15.**
Diabrotica aangetroffen nabij Schiphol
http://www.minlnv.nl/lnv/algemeen/pd/inflap16.pdf

NPPO of the Netherlands, 2003-11.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** DIABVI, NL

2003/143 First report of *Diabrotica virgifera* in Belgium

In Belgium, in September 2003, 52 specimens of *Diabrotica virgifera* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae – EPPO A2 list) were trapped near Zaventem Airport (Brussels). The relatively high number of insects suggests that there is an established population which could have been introduced in 2002. Eradication measures have immediately been put in place. A quarantine area (1 km radius) has been delimited around each infested plot with a buffer zone (5 km radius). It is prohibited to move fresh maize, soil, bulbs and tubers outside quarantine areas. Harvest should not be done before 1st October. Chemical treatments against the adults are applied in maize fields. Machinery must be disinfected before leaving the focus zone. Pest monitoring will be intensified in quarantine areas and buffer zones. The situation of *D. virgifera* in Belgium can be described as follows: **Present, few specimens trapped near Zaventem airport, under eradication.**

Source: **Web site of the Food Agency of Belgium (AFSCA)**
Communiqué de presse 2003-09-05. Un coléoptère exotique menace nos champs de maïs. Chrysomèle des racines du maïs.
http://www.favv-afsca.fgov.be

NPPO of Belgium, 2003-11.

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

2003/144 European Union emergency measures against *Diabrotica virgifera*

As a result of the recent outbreaks of *Diabrotica virgifera* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae – EPPO A2 list) on the territory of the European Union, a Commission Decision (2003/766/EC) on emergency measures to prevent the spread within the Community of *D. virgifera* was published on 2003-10-25.

* It states that official surveys for the presence of *D. virgifera* should be made by all EU Member States and results notified to the Commission and other Member States.

* When outbreaks are discovered in new areas, countries should delimit the following zones:
- a quarantine area (1 km radius) around the field where the pest was found
- a buffer zone (5 km radius) around the quarantine area.
In addition, countries can delimit a broader buffer zone around the zones described above.

* Within all delimited zones, trapping programmes should be set up.

* In the quarantine area:
- it is prohibited to move fresh maize and soil outside this zone
- restrictions are made on harvest dates
- rotation is imposed (maize is grown only 1 in 3 consecutive years, and not grown for 2 years after first discovery)
- appropriate treatments are made
- agricultural machinery used in maize fields must be disinfected before leaving this zone
- maize volunteer plants must be removed

* In the buffer zone:
- maize must be rotated with another crop
- appropriate treatments are made

* In the broader buffer zone:
- maize must be rotated with another crop.

Source: Commission Decision (2003/766/EC) of 24th October 2003 on emergency measures to prevent the spread within the Community of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte.
Official Journal of the European Union, L 275, 49-50.

Additional key words: regulations **Computer codes:** DIABVI, EU

2003/145 Isolated finding of *Phytophthora ramorum* on *Quercus falcata* in United Kingdom

The NPPO of United Kingdom informed the EPPO Secretariat that *Phytophthora ramorum* (EPPO Alert List) has been found on a single tree of the introduced American *Quercus falcata* (Southern red oak) in Sussex. The infected tree was growing in a large private estate which is periodically open to the public, in an area where *P. ramorum* had previously and repeatedly been found on rhododendrons, *Kalmia* and *Pieris*. The infected tree is around 100 years old. *Q. falcata* is occasionally planted in United Kingdom as a specimen tree. Phytosanitary action is now being considered, but is likely to include felling and destruction of the tree and a continuation of the intensive survey of all trees and plants growing at this site and its surroundings. No material will be allowed to leave the premises.
EPPO note: It must be stressed that this is an isolated finding, made on a American oak species and that, so far, *P. ramorum* has never been found on European oak species.

Source: **NPPO of United Kingdom, 2003-11.**
Forestry Commission and DEFRA News Release of 2003-11-05. First infected oak found in Sussex. http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2003/031105b.htm

Additional key words: host plants **Computer codes:** PHYTRA, GB

2003/146 Details on the situation of *Phytophthora ramorum* in United Kingdom

The current situation of *Phytophthora ramorum* (EPPO Alert List) in United Kingdom can be viewed on the web site of the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). As a result of intensive surveys, *P. ramorum* has now been found at 290 sites in England and Wales, as well as some 30 sites in Scotland, Northern Ireland, Jersey and Guernsey. Most findings were made in commercial nurseries and garden centres on plants in containers, but in a few cases, infections were found on plants growing in the soil. *P. ramorum* has mainly been found on *Rhododendron* and *Viburnum,* but also on *Pieris*, *Camellia*, *Syringa,* and *Kalmia.* The pathogen has been detected once on pot-grown *Taxus baccata* (yew), as well as on a plant of *Hamamelis virginiana* grown in a public garden in Wales near infected Rhododendrons. Eradication and containment measures are taken whenever the pathogen is found, and they include: destruction of affected plants, tracing of related stocks and restrictions on the movements of other susceptible plants.

Source: **Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), UK, Plant Health Web site.** Current situation – *Phytophthora ramorum*
http://www.defra.gov.uk/planth/oaknew3.htm

Additional key words: detailed record, new host plants **Computer codes:** PHYTRA, GB

2003/147 First report of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in Canada

Anoplophora glabripennis (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae – EPPO A1 list) is reported for the first time from Canada. The insect was identified on 2003-09-08 at Woodbridge (city of Vaughan, near Toronto), in Ontario. Inspections have showed that infested trees are located in a limited area (the current delimited area is about 17 ha), mainly in an industrial site. Eradication measures are being taken. It is prohibited to move tree material (including nursery plants, firewood, pruned or fallen branches) outside the delimited area.

Source: NAPPO News Story, 2003-09-15/19. Asian longhorned beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*, found in Woodbridge, Ontario.
http://www.pestalert.org

Canadian Food Inspection Agency - Plant Health Division Web Site
Asian Longhorned Beetle
http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/protect/facren/alhbe.shtml

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ANOLGL, CA

2003/148 *Agrilus planipennis* is reported for the first time from Maryland (US)

In September 2003, the presence of *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae – EPPO Alert List) was reported in ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) at one nursery in Maryland (US), in Prince George's County. So far in USA, *A. planipennis* had only been found in Michigan and Ohio. Phytosanitary measures were taken to prevent any further spread. The majority of the infected trees from the nursery were destroyed and it is planned to survey areas where 27 of the 121 trees were sold and planted.

Source: NAPPO Pest Alert System. NAPPO News story posted 2003-09-05.
http://www.pestalert.org

Maryland Department of Agriculture News Release
New exotic pest identified in Marylands' Ash Trees, 2003-09-02.
http://www.mda.state.md.us/press/eabrel.htm

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

EPPO *Reporting Service*

2003/149 IPPC Secretariat update on the status of ISPM 15 – Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade and the wood packaging mark

In 2002, the implementation of ISPM 15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging in international trade) was suspended while legal problems concerning the mark which had to be added to packaging wood were solved (see EPPO RS 2002/105). FAO now considers that the ISPM and the mark are now available for use by all contracting parties. As the mark needs to be registered in some countries, the IPPC Secretariat has prepared explanations which were presented and discussed at the 15th Technical Consultation held in Sigatoka, Fiji (2003-09-29/10-03).

"The final standard including the revised mark is on the IPPC website and is being printed in booklet form.
Registration proceedings have commenced in over 80 countries. These countries have been chosen on the basis of ease of registration (Madrid Protocol signatories), likely volume of use of wood packaging or past history of trade mark infringement. This process has been very costly and time-consuming and the IPPC Secretariat is trying to minimize further costs.
The IPPC Secretariat continues to receive enquiries about registration or licensing of the agreement. The following statements address the two major issues that are raised.

Request for licence agreement.

FAO has made a general statement that ISPM 15 including the mark is available for use by all contracting parties to the IPPC and FAO members according to the IPPC and relevant principles and standards. FAO considers that this provides sufficient authorization to use the mark and to apply relevant national laws on trademark protection with respect to the mark. As a result, it is considered that a specific licence agreement is not needed by each contracting party or FAO member. Negotiation of a specific licence agreement with each IPPC contracting party or FAO member will take considerable time and will consume significant resources. However, FAO acknowledges that it is possible that the legal framework in some countries may require that a licence agreement be in place to allow the mark to be used. In this regard, we request that you consider whether the existing FAO general statement on this matter forms the basis for such a license, or could acquire this status with a few simple additional actions or clarifications. If you consider a licence agreement is essential for your country please contact the IPPC Secretariat.

Mark not being registered in that country, registration requested.

Registration of the mark has commenced in a large number of countries but FAO cannot be responsible for registration in all countries, as this would entail high registration costs. FAO has made a general statement that ISPM 15 including the mark is available for use by all contracting parties to the IPPC and FAO members according to the IPPC and relevant principles and standards. Registration in individual countries that are contracting parties to the IPPC or FAO members does not confer any additional rights or obligations (regarding the use of the mark as established in the IPPC convention) on those countries. All IPPC contracting parties and FAO members can use the mark irrespective of the registration status in their country. However, if there are specific circumstances in regard to your country that might justify registration FAO is prepared to consider them.

In summary the mark is an integral part of the standard and, given the statements by FAO consenting to use, there is no reason that contracting parties and members of FAO cannot use the mark just as they use the other parts of ISPM 15 and other ISPMs."

Source: **IPPC Secretariat.** Discussion paper prepared by the IPPC Secretariat for the 15th RPPO Technical Consultation, Sigatoka, Fiji, 2003-09-29/10-03.

Additional key words: FAO, ISPM

2003/150 Details on the situation of Tomato chlorosis and Tomato infectious chlorosis criniviruses

In 1997, unusual symptoms were observed on tomato crops in Málaga and Almería in Spain. Symptoms were characterized by interveinal yellowing of leaves and purple discoloration in some cases. The disease was associated with high populations of whiteflies. In 2000, *Tomato chlorosis crinivirus* (ToCV - EPPO Alert List) was identified as the causal agent. This virus was also found in 2000 in Tenerife and Gran Canaria (Islas Canarias). In 2001, another virus causing similar symptoms, *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* (TICV - EPPO Alert List), was identified on tomato crops in Benicarló (Castellón). From April 2001 to December 2002, a total of 196 samples of symptomatic tomato plants, collected from the main-tomato growing regions of Spain, were tested by RT-PCR for the presence of ToCV and TICV. ToCV was detected in 95 samples from: Alicante, Almería, Castellón, Gran Canaria, Mallorca (Baleares), Murcia, Sevilla, Gran Canaria and Tenerife (Islas Canarias). TICV was detected in 16 tomato samples from Alicante and Castellón. Both viruses were found in 3 samples from Alicante.
The situation of *Tomato chlorosis crinivirus* in Spain can be described as follows: **Present, found in Andalucia (Almería, Málaga, Sevilla), Comunidad Valenciana (Alicante, Castellón), Murcia, Islas Baleares (Mallorca), Islas Canarias (Tenerife, Gran Canaria).**
The situation of *Tomato infectious chlorosis crinivirus* in Spain can be described as follows: **Present, found in Comunidad Valenciana (Alicante, Castellón).**

Source: Font, M.I.; Vaira, A.M.; Accotto, G.P.; Lacasa, A.; Serra, J.; Gomila, J.; Juárez, M.; Espino, A.I.; Jordá, M.C. (2003) Amarilleos en los cultivos de tomate asociados a *Tomato chlorosis virus* (ToCV) y *Tomato infectious chlorosis virus* (TICV) en España.
Boletín de Sanidad Vegetal, Plagas, 29(1), 110-121.

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** TICV, ToCV, ES

2003/151 First report of *Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus* in Guadeloupe

In Guadeloupe, symptoms of stunting and chlorotic leaf curl were observed on tomato plants in September 2001. Molecular studies confirmed that *Tomato yellow leaf curl begomovirus* (TYLCV - EPPO A2 list) is infecting tomato in Guadeloupe. In May 2002, typical symptoms of TYLCV were observed in all tomato production areas at an incidence of 80 to 100 %. This is the first report of TYLCV in Guadeloupe.

The situation of TYLCV in Guadeloupe can be described as follows: **Present, first found in 2001 and observed in 2002 in all tomato-growing areas with a high incidence.**

Source: Urbino, C.; Tassius, K. (2003) First report of *Tomato yellow leaf curl virus* in tomato in Guadeloupe.
Plant Disease, 87(11), p 1397.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** TYLCV0, GP

2003/152 New data on grapevine flavescence dorée and other grapevine yellows

Numerous papers were presented on grapevine yellows during the 14th ICVG Conference (Locorotondo, IT, 2003-09-12/17). The EPPO Secretariat has extracted the following new data concerning these diseases.

The following table summarizes the current knowledge about grapevine diseases and their associated phytoplasmas observed in different parts of the world.

Disease	Phytoplasma name	Ribosomal group (and subgroup)	Known insect vector	Preferred host plants of vector	Distribution
Flavescence dorée	FD	EY or 16SrV (-C, -D)	*Scaphoideus titanus*	*Vitis*	France, Italy, Spain
Palatinate grapevine yellows	PGY	EY or 16SrV	*Oncopsis alni*	*Alnus glutinosa*	Germany
Bois noir, legno nero, Vergilbungskrankheit	Stolbur	Stolbur or 16SrXII-A	*Hyalesthes obsoletus*	*Convolvulus arvensis, Urtica dioica, Ranunculus, Solanum, Lavandula*	Europe, Israel, Lebanon
Australian grapevine yellows	*Candidatus* Phytoplasma australiense	Stolbur or 16SrXII-B	-	-	Australia
Australian grapevine yellows	Tomato big bud	FBP or 16SrII	-	-	Australia
Buckland valley grapevine yellows	BVGY	AY or 16SrI-related	-	-	Australia
Grapevine yellows	Aster yellows	AY or 16SrI-A	-	-	Italy
North American grapevine yellows	Western X	W-X or 16SrIII-I	-	-	New York, Virginia

Table adapted from Boudon-Padieu (2003).

First report of *Scaphoideus titanus* carrying grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma in Portugal

In 2001, the presence of *S. titanus* was reported for the first time in the North of Portugal. Surveys were carried out in 2001/2002 over the whole country to determine its distribution. Preliminary results showed that *S. titanus* only occurs in the North of Portugal (Trás-os-Montes, Entre-Douro-e-Minho). 54 specimens of *S. titanus* were collected in vineyards and tested. The presence of phytoplasmas belonging to 16SrV-D was detected in 9 samples. So far, grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma has not been detected in samples of grapevine (only phytoplasmas belonging to 16SrI-B), but its presence in the insect vector is a serious concern. Therefore, surveys will continue on the occurrence of such phytoplasmas both in *S. titanus* and in grapevine in order to prevent possible outbreaks of flavescence dorée in Portugal (de Sousa *et al*., 2003).

First report of flavescence dorée in Serbia

Symptoms of grapevine yellows have been observed in Serbia (county of Rasina) since the mid-1990s. Symptoms were characterized by leaf roll, red and yellow discoloration, vein chlorosis and necrosis, shortened internodes and lack of lignification. On regional cultivars like Plovdina and Smederevka, symptoms were so severe that some vineyards had to be uprooted. The disease was observed on young plantations as well as in old vineyards. Molecular tests revealed the presence of phytoplasmas belonging to the Elm Yellows group (16SrV-C). The Serbian iolates were most closely related to an Italian isolate of grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma from Treviso. As *S. titanus* was detected in the same area in spring 2003, it can be considered that flavescence dorée occurs in Serbia (Duduk *et al*., 2003).

Presence of *Scaphoideus titanus* in Slovenia

This insect has been found in the western part of Slovenia since the mid-1990s where it is relatively abundant. However, grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma has never been detected in Slovenia. Only bois noir is present and widespread in all grapevine-growing areas (Petrovic *et al*., 2003). According to theEPPO Secretariat, this confirms earlier reports of *S. titanus* in Slovenia.

Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma detected in *Clematis vitalba*

In Italy, Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma was detected in *Clematis vitalba* plants growing in the vicinity of vineyards. Infected *Clematis* plants showed no symptoms. Further studies will be done on insect vectors to better understand the potential role of such plants in the epidemiology of the disease in the vineyards (Angelini *et al*., 2003).

Source:

Angelini, E.; Squizzato, F.; Lucchetta, G.; Borgo, M. (2003) Identification of a grapevine flavescence dorée-C phytoplasma and two deletion mutants in Clematis (abst. pp 60-61).

Boudon-Padieu, E. (2003) The situation of grapevine yellows and current research directions : distribution, diversity, vectors, diffusion and control (abst. pp 47-53)

De Sousa, E.; Cardoso, F.; Casati, P.; Bianco, P.A.; Guimarães, M.; Pereira, V. (2003) Detection and identification of phytoplasmas belonging t 16SrV-D in *Scaphoideus titanus* adults in Portugal (abst. p 78).

Duduk, B.; Botti, S.; Ivanovic, M.; Dukic, N.; Bertaccini, A. (2003) Molecular characterization of a flavescence dorée phytoplasma infecting grapevine in Serbia (abst. pp 91-92).

Petrovic, N.; Seljak, G.; Matis, G.; Miklavc, J.; Beber, K.; Boben, J.; Ravnikar, M. (2003) The presence of grapevine yellows and their potential natural vectors in wine-growing regions of Slovenia (abst. pp 97-98).

Extended abstracts of papers and posters presented at the 14th ICVG Conference, Locorotondo, IT, 2003-09-12/17.

Additional key words: new records, detailed records, new host plants

Computer codes: PHYP10, PHYP64, SI, PT, YU

2003/153 Situation of grapevine flavescence dorée in France

In France, it is considered that the situation of grapevine flavescence dorée (EPPO A2 list) remained stable in 2003. However, despite compulsory control measures, a small number of new outbreaks were discovered at Moissac (Tarn-et-Garonne), in Vaucluse, Gironde and Charentes. Surveys on the insect vector *Scaphoideus titanus* showed that it is still absent from the vineyards of Alsace, Champagne, Vendée and from cv. Muscadet in the Loire Valley (Herlemont, 2003). It is also stressed that a new decree was published in 2003 to clarify and strengthen compulsory control measures against grapevine flavescence dorée and its vector. This new piece of regulation applies to all *Vitis* plants (cultivated or wild). When an infected *Vitis* plant is found, a quarantine area (called 'périmètre de lutte') is delimited around it for a minimum period of 2 years. The delimited zone includes at least one commune. All infected plants must be destroyed and compulsory control against the vector is required in the delimited zone. The decree also contains a set of special requirements for nurseries. In particular, it is prohibited to grow mother plants in the vicinity of a delimited zone. A hot water treatment is also included for planting material.

Possibilities for biological control of *S. titanus* are being investigated. This insect is thought to originate from the Great Lakes region in USA and Canada, where it is relatively not abundant. Earlier observations made in New York State had revealed the existence of parasitoids (Hymenoptera: Dryinidae). Further surveys were carried out in 2001/2002 by French scientists (Malausa *et al*., 2003) to look for possible biological control agents of *S. titanus* in its area of origin. In the regions of Finger Lakes (New York State), insects were collected in vineyards and wild *Vitis* plants, or 'trapped' on reared eggs of *S. titanus* exposed in the field. Several parasitoid species were found, such as *Lonchodryinus flavus* and *Gonatopus peculiaris* (both Hymenoptera, Dryinidae) and several species of oophagous parasitoids (Diptera, Pipunculidae). Further studies are needed to rear these species in the laboratory and to evaluate their biological characteristics, as well as their efficacy and safety, prior to any release in vineyards.

Source: Décret du 9 juillet 2003 relatif à la lutte contre la flavescence dorée de la vigne et contre son agent vecteur. **Journal Officiel n° 167 du 22 juillet 2003, p 12362.**

Herlemont, B. (2003) Bilan phytosanitaire de la vigne en 2003. Climatologie exceptionnelle et réglementation en mouvement. **Phytoma – La Défense des Végétaux, no. 565, 14-19.**

Malausa, J.C. ; Nusillard, B. ; Giuge, L. (2003) Lutte biologique contre la cicadelle vectrice de la flavescence dorée. **Phytoma – La Défense des Végétaux, no. 565, 24-27.**

de la Roque, B. (2003) Flavescence dorée : réglementation dépoussiérée. **Phytoma – La Défense des Végétaux, no. 565, 22-23.**

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** PHYP64, SCAPLI, FR

EPPO *Reporting Service*

2003/154 Genetic studies of an *Erwinia* species isolated from Asian pears in Japan

Studies were carried out in USA to compare genomic and plasmid DNAs extracted from *Erwinia* strains isolated on Asian pears (*Pyrus pyrifolia*) in Japan, from *E. pyrifoliae* strains isolated on *P. pyrifolia* in South Korea, and from *E. amylovora* strains isolated on fruit trees and *Rubus* in various countries. Amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) and comparison of sequences were used to differentiate the strains included in this study (4 *Erwinia* strains from Japan, 4 strains of *E. pyrifoliae*, 15 strains of *E. amylovora*). These genetic comparisons showed that the *Erwinia* pathogen found on pear in Japan is closely related to *E. pyrifoliae* and that both of these pathogens are distinct from *E. amylovora* (EPPO A2 list). However, it is noted that further studies should be done on a wider number of strains and that other techniques (i.e. total DNA-DNA homology) should be used to establish whether the pathogen found in Japan is *E. pyrifoliae* or a new species.

EPPO notes:

1) It can be recalled that *Erwinia* strains were reported to cause bacterial shoot blight in Hokkaido some years ago, and that since then the Japanese authorities have always denied the presence of *E. amylovora* on their territory.
2) *E. pyrifoliae* was formerly on the EPPO Alert List because it was reported in 1998 as a new bacterium of *P. pyrifolia*. But, as in 1999 and 2000 it could not be isolated again in the previously affected orchards and as no new information was available, it was decided in 2003 that a sufficient Alert had been given.
3) As a general remark, it could be underlined that up-to-date information is lacking on the extent and severity of both Asian pear blight in South Korea and bacterial shoot blight in Hokkaido in Japan, as well on their host range (in particular on the susceptibility of European pears, *P. communis*). But if it appeared that these diseases were causing damage to crops, the risk posed by the pathogen(s) involved might need to be reassessed.

Source: Maxson-Stein, K.; McGhee, G.C.; Smith, J.J.; Jones, A.L.; Sundin, G.W. (2003) Genetic analysis of a pathogenic *Erwinia* sp. isolated from pear in Japan.
Phytopathology, 93(11), 1393-1399.

Additional key words: genetics **Computer codes:** ERWIAM, ERWIPY, JP

2003/155 Impatiens downy mildew reported in United Kingdom

The NPPO of United Kingdom recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of interceptions and outbreaks of a new disease: impatiens downy mildew (*Plasmopara* sp.). So far, downy mildew of impatiens had never been reported in UK, although the disease occurs in North America and parts of Europe. The disease was first diagnosed at the Central Science Laboratory on 2003-06-28 on a sample of Impatiens hybrid ('Mystic Mixed') intercepted in Sussex. Since then, around 15 outbreaks at nurseries and in planted areas have been found at a range of sites throughout England. Action has been taken on infected plants: destruction of severely affected plants, treatment of the remainder with chlorothalonil, adoption of hygiene precautions regarding movement of potentially infected plants between and within glasshouses and measures to reduce humidity. Work is being done to identify the pathogen and its pathway into the UK.

Source: NPPO of United Kingdom, 2003-09.

Additional key words: new pest **Computer codes:** GB

2003/156 Survey on potato cyst nematodes in England and Wales

A survey has been carried out in England and Wales (United Kingdom) for the presence of potato cyst nematodes (*Globodera rostochiensis*, *G. pallida* – both on the EPPO A2 list). The aim was to estimate the proportion of potato fields infested with potato cyst nematodes and to determine the relative abundance of the two species. From 1997 to 1998, soil samples were collected from fields where potato had been grown the previous year. 284 potato growers had agreed to participate to this study. Results showed that potato cyst nematodes were found in 64 % of tested samples (a similar study done in 1996 had given 42 %). *G. pallida* is the predominant species found in England and Wales: 8% of the populations were *G. rostochiensis*, 67% *G. pallida* and 25 % were mixed populations. In most cases, population densities were low (62 % of the infestations had a density of less than 10 eggs g^{-1} soil). *G. pallida* was mainly found in the eastern counties of Lincolnshire, Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire where many potatoes are grown. *G. rostochiensis* was present in eastern and western countries, almost equally, frequently in the same locations as *G. pallida*. Significant relationships were observed between species of potato cyst nematodes found and the use of resistant and non-resistant potato cultivars. It is concluded that priority should be given to

preventing further spread of these nematodes to potato-growing land and that integrated management strategies (use of resistant cultivars, nematicides, longer crop rotations, and possibly trap cropping) should be recommended to growers.

Source: Minnis, S.T.; Haydock, P.P.J.; Ibrahim, S.K.; Grove, I.G., Evans, K.; Russell, M.D. (2002) Potato cyst nematodes in England and Wales – occurrence and distribution.
Annals of applied Biology, 140(2), 187-195.

Additional key words: detailed records **Computer codes:** HETDRO, HETDPA, GB

2003/157 New findings of *Paysandisia archon* in France and Spain

Paysandisia archon (EPPO Alert List) is reported for the first time in Languedoc-Roussillon (France). Two outbreaks have been observed at Saint Jean de Védas and Pérols (department of Hérault). So far, this palm borer had only been found near Hyères (department of Var). It can also be noted that this pest has been added in February 2002 to the list of pests which are submitted to compulsory control in France.

In Spain, the presence of *P. archon* has also been observed in the Comunidad Valenciana. So far, it had been only been found near Girona (Cataluña). In Comunidad Valenciana, *P. archon* is now subjected to compulsory measures aiming at its eradication and containment.

Source: **Web site of Préfecture du département de l'Hérault.**
Rubrique du mois - l'agriculture (novembre 2002).
http://www.herault.pref.gouv.fr/34/actualites/journal/etatcom_novembre_mois.shtm

Arrêté du 7 février 2002 modifiant l'arrêté du 31 juillet 2000 établissant la liste des organismes nuisibles aux végétaux, produits végétaux et autres objets soumis à des mesures de lutte obligatoire. **Journal Officiel no. 44 du 21 février 2002.** http://www.adminet.com/jo/20020221/AGRG0200312A.html

ORDEN de 26 de mayo de 2003, de la Conselleria de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, por la cual se declara la existencia oficial de la plaga *Paysandisia archon* (Busmeister, 1880) en la Comunidad Valenciana, se declara de utilidad pública su lucha y se establecen las medidas obligatorias para su erradicación y control. [2003/X6385]
http://www.gva.es/cidaj/dogv/4514c.htm

Additional key words: detailed records **Computer codes:** PAYSAR, ES, FR

2003/158 Amendments to EU Plant Health Directive 2000/29 EC

The Agriculture Council adopted on 2002-11-28 amendments to Directive 2000/29/EC, which deals with protective measures against the introduction and spread of organisms harmful to plants or plant products in the European Union. The overall aim of the EU plant health legislation is to ensure protection against pests that affect plants or plant products. The benefits of the amended Directive include:

- strengthening of import clearance procedures for plants and plant products
- improved conditions for co-operation between customs authorities and official phytosanitary bodies in Member States
- better information for importers
- establishment of a harmonized system of fees
- adjustments of the EU Plant Health regime to the conditions of the internal market, responding to risks resulting from increased trade.

The amended Directive came into force on 2002-12-30, the day of its publication in the Official Journal , and requires Member States to adopt and publish the provisions necessary to comply with it before 1st January 2005.

The Commission will now focus on preparing various implementing measures such as co-operation between the official phytosanitary bodies in the Member States and the Customs authorities, model forms of documents to be used in that co-operation, and the means of transmission of these documents. Such measures must be taken to maintain the identity of the consignments and to safeguard against spread of pests during transport until completion of the required phytosanitary and customs formalities.

Source: Council Directive 2002/89/EC of 28 November 2002 amending Directive 2000/29/EC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community Official Journal L 355 , 30/12/2002 P. 0045 – 0060

EU Press Release of 2002-11-28. EU Plant Health Regime improved to reduce risk of importing harmful organisms.
http://europa.eu.int/comm/food/fs/ph_ps/harm/index_en.htm

Additional key words: regulations **Computer codes:** EU