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21 Bld Richard Lenoir
75011 Paris

Tel: 33 1 45 20 77 94
E-mail: hq@eppo.int

Web: www.eppo.int
GD: gd.eppo.int

2025/001 New data on quarantine pests and pests of the EPPO Alert List

By searching through the literature, the EPPO Secretariat has extracted the following new data concerning quarantine pests and pests included (or formerly included) on the EPPO Alert List, and indicated in bold the situation of the pest concerned using the terms of ISPM 8.

- **New records**

Amrasca biguttula (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) is first reported from Niger. It is causing damage on okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) and sorrel (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*) (Zinsou *et al.*, 2024). **Present.**

The grape leafhoppers *Arboridia kakogawana* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae, formerly EPPO Alert List), *Erasmoneura vulnerata* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) and *Hishimonus hamatus* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) are first recorded from Hungary (Schlitt et al., 2024). **Present.**

Erthesina fullo (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) is reported for the first time from Greece. An adult and a nymph were found in October 2024 in Rio, in the Peloponnesus near the port of Patras, one of the largest Greek ports receiving cargo from China. *E. fullo* originates from Asia and presents some similarities with *Halyomorpha halys* in its biology and behaviour. Since 2017, it has been reported from Albania (EPPO RS 2021/133) where its populations are increasing. For the moment, it is not known whether this finding corresponds to a new introduction or natural spread from Albania (Zografou *et al.*, 2024). **Present, few occurrences.**

Fire blight, caused *by Erwinia amylovora* (EPPO A2 List) is first reported on pear (*Pyrus communis)* in Saudi Arabia. It was isolated in 2020-2021 from pear trees in Hail, Al Jouf, and Tabuk regions (Ibrahim *et al.*, 2024).

Erwinia pyrifoliae (*Erwiniaceae* - formerly EPPO Alert List) is reported for the first time in the USA in Ohio. It was found in a greenhouse on *Fragaria x ananassa*. Identity was confirmed using molecular tests (Bonkowski *et al.,* 2024). **Present, few occurrences.**

Leptoglossus occidentalis (Heteroptera: Coreidae) was observed for the first time in Kyrgyzstan. In September 2024, an adult specimen was observed on a balcony in the city of Cholpon-Ata (Northern shore of Lake Issyk-Kul), Northern Kyrgyzstan near the border with Kazakhstan (van der Heyden, 2024). **Present, few occurrences.**

Neopestalotiopsis rosae (Sporocadaceae) causing leaf necrosis, root rot and wilting of strawberry (*Fragaria ananassa)* was observed for the first time in Albania in the county of Fier (Cara *et al.*, 2024). **Present, few occurrences.**

Zaprionus indianus (Diptera: Drosophilidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is reported from Ethiopia affecting fruit of *Ziziphus* trees. It was reported during surveys conducted in 2022-2023 The major pest there was *Carpomya incompleta* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU A1 Quarantine Pest). *Drosophila hydei* and *D. simulans* were also recorded *(*Alle *et al.*, 2024*)*.

- **Detailed records**

In Russia, *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae – EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Western Siberia. It was detected in 2024 in Barnaul (Altai Krai) (Baranchikov *et al.*, 2024).

In the USA, *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae – EPPO A2 List) has been found for the first time in North Dakota. Adults were caught in a trap in LaMoure county in August 2024. Follow-up surveys detected larvae. A quarantine zone has been defined (NDDA, 2024).

In China, *Apriona rugicollis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae - EPPO A1 List) is reported to occur in Chongqing and Hubei, based on field surveys. The authors also consider that reports from GBIF and iNaturalist in Beijing, Henan, Shaanxi and Fujian are reliable (Zhang *et al.*, 2024).

In the USA, *Cydalima perspectalis* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae - formerly EPPO Alert List) was reported for the first time in Delaware and Pennsylvania. The entire State of Delaware and Erie County in Pennsylvania are quarantine areas for this pest (USDA, 2024).

Watermelon chlorotic stunt virus (*Begomovirus citrulli*, WmCSV, formerly EPPO Alert List) was identified for the first time on cucurbits (*Citrullus lanatus* and *Cucumis melo)* in the USA (Arizona and California) in autumn 2023 (Wintermantel et al., 2024). **Present, few occurrences.**

- **Host plants**

In the United Kingdom, orchid fleck virus (*Dichorhavirus orchidaceae,* OFV – EU A1 List for citrus strains) was first detected on *Dendrochilum magnum* and *Veronica spicata* during a routine inspection in a botanical garden in the south of England. Its identity was confirmed using molecular tests (Harju *et al.*, 2024).

- **New pests and taxonomy**

Numerous studies have shown that *Colletotrichum acutatum* (EU RNQP) is a species complex. In the EPPO Global Database, the code COLLAC has been kept to describe this species complex and a new code for *C. acutatum sensu stricto* has been created (COLLAZ). It should also be noted that *C. acutatum sensu lato* has been regulated mainly because of the disease it causes on strawberry, but that in the light of the new taxonomy, other *Colletotrichum* within the *C. acutatum* species complex (e.g. *C. godetiae, C. fioriniae, C. nymphae, C. simmondsii*) or within the *C. dematium* species complex (e.g. *C. anthrisci, C. lineola*) are causing anthracnose of strawberry (Damm *et al.*, 2012, Rose and Damm, 2024).

Irpex rosettiformis is usually considered as a wood decay fungus. It was first reported as a pathogen of avocado trees (*Persea americana*) in Mexico, causing white root rot disease. This fungus should be monitored to prevent its spread with avocado seedlings (Cisneros-Zambrano *et al.*, 2024).

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

Computer codes: AGRLPL, APRIJA, ARBOKA, CARYIN, COLLAC, COLLAZ, DPHNPE, DROSHY, DROSSM, EMPOBI, ERTNFU, ERWIAM, ERWIPY, ERYTVU, HISHHA, IRPXRO, LEPLOC, NPESRS, OFV000, WMCSV0, ZAPRIN, AL, CN, ET, GB, GR, HU, KG, MX, NE, RU, SA, US

2025/002 First report of *Aleurocanthus woglumi* and *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* in Georgia

Aleurocanthus woglumi (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – EPPO A1 List) and *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – EPPO A2 List) were first recorded in Georgia in 2018. They cause damage to citrus crops in Western Georgia (in Adjara, Guria and Samegrelo regions), together with *Aleurothrixus floccosus* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae). This is the first report of the presence of *A. woglumi* in the EPPO region.
During surveys, the three species could be observed in mixed infestations on citrus trees. *Aleurothrixus floccosus, A. spiniferus, A. woglumi* are all quarantine pests in Georgia.

Source: Gabaidze M, Mepharishvili S, Khalvashi N, Memarne G, Gorgiladze L, Turmanidze M, Vanishvili L (2024) Outcomes of phytosanitary monitoring in the citrus plantations of Adjara-Guria. Annals of *Entomology* 42(1), 75–82. (abst.)

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Pictures *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ALECSN/photos
Aleurocanthus woglumi. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ALECWO/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ALECWO, ALECSN, GE

2025/003 First report of *Eutetranychus orientalis* in Italy

The citrus brown mite *Eutetranychus orientalis* (Acari: Tetranychidae – EPPO A2 List) is reported for the first time in Italy. It was detected in several locations in Sicilia between August and October 2024: in orange groves located in the municipalities of Misterbianco, Motta Sant'Anastasia, Paternò, Ramacca (province of Catania) and in the municipality of Lentini (province of Syracuse). It was also detected on potted lemon ornamental trees in the municipality of Taormina (province of Messina). The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological analysis.
The authors note that numerous informal reports were made by citrus growers, suggesting that this species is probably more widely spread in Eastern Sicily than the confirmed reports.

A slight defoliation was observed on some plants but, as the summer 2024 was particularly long, very hot and dry, it was not possible to determine whether this was caused by mite activity or the unfavourable conditions.
Further surveys will be conducted in the following months to assess the spread and potential damage.

The situation of *Eutetranychus orientalis* can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and not under official control.**

Source: Tropea Garzia G, Tumminelli R, Ben Hmad E, Massimino Cocuzza G (2025) First report of *Eutetranychus orientalis* (Klein, 1936) (Acari, Tetranychidae), found in citrus orchards in Eastern Sicily. *EPPO Bulletin* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.13061

Pictures *Eutetranychus orientalis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/EUTEOR/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** EUTEOR, IT

2025/004 First finding of *Scirtothrips aurantii* and new finding of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in the Netherlands

The NPPO of the Netherlands recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of a recent finding of *Scirtothrips aurantii* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A1 List) and *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A2 List) on its territory, in the municipality of Altena (province of Noord-Brabant). This was the first report of *S. aurantii* in the Netherlands.
S. dorsalis had been previously found in 2019 and 2022 in relation with imported plants and eradicated (EPPO RS 2019/182, 2022/204, 2023/010).

Adults and second stage larvae of *S. dorsalis* were detected as part of a post-import monitoring inspection on *Jasminum multipartitum* plants at the end of October 2024. Further inspections in early November detected additional *S. dorsalis* as well as adults of *S. aurantii* on ornamental plants for planting of *J. multipartitum, Loropetalum* sp., *Melaleuca citrina* (syn. *Callistemon citrinus*), *Ilex crenata* and *Podocarpus* sp. in two compartments of a greenhouse (0.9 ha) of a retail nursery. *S. aurantii* was also found on weeds (species not specified), in the same greenhouse. Symptoms were only observed on *J. multipartitum*.
The identity of the pests was confirmed by morphological and molecular tests.
The origin of the finding is not known, because the greenhouse contained plants imported from China and from another EU Member State. Trace forward information showed that all plants recently moved out of the greenhouses had been exported to a Third Country. Official phytosanitary measures were taken on October 30, 2024. All plants in the two compartments of the greenhouse have been put on hold. Official phytosanitary measures are taken and include the incineration of the infested plants, hygiene measures to prevent spread of both pest species with clothing and equipment, and further monitoring.

The pest status for *Scirtothrips dorsalis* and *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication**.

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2024-12).

Pictures *Scirtothrips aurantii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SCITAU/photos
Scirtothrips dorsalis. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SCITDO/photos

Additional key words: New record, detailed record **Computer codes: SCITAU, SCITDO, NL**

2025/005 First report of *Jacobiasca lybica* in France

Jacobiasca lybica (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae), the cotton jassid, is reported in continental France for the first time. The presence of the pest was officially confirmed on *Vitis vinifera* in a vineyard in the Côte Vermeille (Pyrénées-Orientales department, Occitanie region) in September 2024 and in two municipalities in the Var department: Bormes-les-Mimosas and La Londe-les-Maures (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region) in October 2024.
J. lybica is a polyphagous leafhopper, originating in North Africa. It later spread to southern European countries (Italy, Greece, Portugal, Spain). It had been previously recorded in the island of Corse (FR), first on the eastern coast in 2020 and it spread to the entire island, causing damage on grapevine in 2023-2024.
J. lybica closely resembles *Empoasca vitis,* another leafhopper pest that is less damaging but common in vineyards in Southern France: they can only de differentiated in a laboratory.
J. lybica lay eggs on grapevines (*V. vinifera*) in early summer and overwinter on neighbouring trees including *Alnus* spp., *Ficus* spp., and *Quercus* spp. Larvae and adults puncture leaf veins to feed on sap. This causes severe leaf symptoms including leaf deformation,

discoloration and leaf drying. Current insecticide applications could not control *J. lybica*. Damage to leaves and early defoliation can be detrimental to the quality of harvest. Official surveys are being conducted to determine the extent of damage.
The situation of *Jacobiasca lybica* in France can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed.**

A distribution map is available in EPPO Global Database:
https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/EMPOLY/distribution

Source: Bulletin de Santé N°23 spécial FD (2024) Ecophyto. Agricultures & Territoires Chambre D'Agriculture Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur. https://draaf.paca.agriculture.gouv.fr/23-bulletin-de-sante-no23-special-fd-26-septembre-2024-a4264.html
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Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** EMPOLY, FR

2025/006 First report of *Pochazia shantungensis* in Hungary

Pochazia shantungensis (Hemiptera: Ricaniidae – EPPO Alert List) is reported for the first time in Hungary. The pest was first observed in September 2024 by a gardener in a nursery (outdoors) in Pécs-Hird (Baranya county, Southern Transdanubia) on young potted plants for planting of *Prunus laurocerasus*. In a targeted survey by local researchers in October 2024, a male and female specimen were found in the same location on *P. laurocerasus*. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological tests. The authors conclude that *P. shantungensis* was likely to have been introduced with *P. laurocerasus* plants imported from Italy the year before and kept in unheated tunnels during the winter. However it is unclear whether *P. shantungensis* has established as no eggs were observed during the survey.

The authors further report observations of *P. shantungensis* from citizen science initiatives in new locations in countries where it has been previously reported (including Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Türkiye) and reports of *P. shantungensis* for the first time in Austria, Belgium, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. The status of the pest in these countries would need to be further confirmed.

The situation of *Pochazia shantungensis* in Hungary can be described as: **Present, few occurrences.**

Source: Schlitt, B P, Koczor S, Orosz A (2024) First record of a polyphagous Ricaniid pest, *Pochazia shantungensis* (Chou & Lu, 1977) from the Carpathian Basin (Hemiptera: Fulgoromorpha: Ricaniidae). *Acta Phytopathologica et Entomologica Hungarica* doi.org/10.1556/038.2024.00225

Pictures *Pochazia shantungensis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POCZSH/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** POCZSH, HU, BE, NL, TR, DE, IT, ES, GB, CH, AT

2025/007 Update on the situation of *Pochazia shantungensis* in France

In France *Pochazia shantungensis* (Hemiptera: Ricaniidae - EPPO Alert List) was first recorded in 2018 in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region (EPPO RS 2021/129, RS 2022/001), in Occitanie region in 2022 (RS 2023/011) and in Corsica in 2023 (RS 2024/168).
The NPPO of France confirms that the specimens collected were all *P. shantungensis* and not *P. chinensis,* and provided some additional information on recent findings.

- Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

In Alpes-Maritimes department, a total of 4 individuals were trapped in 2022 in private gardens and 2 nurseries in the municipalities of Cagnes-sur-Mer and Saint Paul de Vence. In 2023, 1 adult was caught in a citrus orchard in Saint Laurent du Var. In 2024, the insect was trapped in an old non-commercial citrus orchard in Vallauris (10 specimens), on 2 *Prunus* trees in public green areas in Nice (2 specimens) and in 2 nurseries (one in Grasse and one in Villeneuve Loubet where 1 individual was found on a *Phillyrea angustifolia*).

- Occitanie

In 2023, 2 adults were caught in Castelnau-le-Lez (close to the place of the finding in 2022, Hérault department) and 3 adults in Toulouges (Pyrénées-Orientales department), all in semi-natural areas located close to plant resellers. No other specimens have been observed during visual examinations in the vicinity of the traps. In 2024, 2 adults were trapped in a nursery in Toulouges and 2 others were trapped in the vicinity of two nurseries in Castelnau-le-Lez.

- Corsica

The populations appear to be more significant than in other regions, with 2 to 3 adults trapped at a time. In this region, larvae have also been detected. The detections have occurred in 6 nurseries/plant resellers: 3 professional operators in Haute-Corse (2 in 2023, 1 in 2024) and 3 in Corse-du-Sud in 2024. The insect was also found in two orchards in 2024 (including citrus and kiwi trees) in Haute-Corse.

So far, no damage on plants has been recorded in any region where *P. shantungensis* has been detected in France. Phytosanitary treatments have been implemented by professional operators in nurseries, and awareness raising activities have been implemented.

The situation of *Pochazia shantungensis* in France can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: NPPO of France (2025-01).

Pictures *Pochazia shantungensis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POCZSH/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** POCZSH, FR

2025/008 *Euzophera semifuneralis* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae): addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why: The American plum borer, *Euzophera semifuneralis* (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) is a North American pest of fruit and ornamental trees, which has been intercepted several times by Italy on wood of *Liriodendron tulipifera, Prunus* and *Tilia* imported from the USA. In the EPPO region, this pest has also been accidentally introduced in Türkiye in 2009.

Where: *E. semifuneralis* is native to North America and occurs in most fruit-growing areas from Southern Canada to Northern Mexico. In Türkiye, it was first found in 2009 in pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) orchards in Osmaniye and then in Adana. However, no data could be found in the literature about its current situation and impact on fruit crops.
EPPO region: Türkiye.
North America: Canada (British Columbia, Ontario), Mexico, USA (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin).

On which plants: *E. semifuneralis* has a wide host range, including at least 16 families of fruit, nut, ornamental, and forest trees. The main economic damage has been recorded on fruit crops, such as plum, cherry, and apple trees. In the USA, it has been observed that although it is a native insect, it prefers imported varieties of plum and cherry rather than the native ones. The host range of *E. semifuneralis* includes the following species: *Carya illinoinensis, Diospyros virginiana, Ginkgo biloba, Gossypium hirsutum, Ipomoea batatas, Juglans microcarpa, Juglans nigra, Liquidambar styraciflua, Malus domestica, Morus alba, Olea europaea, Platanus occidentalis, Platanus x hispanica, Populus* sp., *Prunus armeniaca, Prunus avium, Prunus cerasus, Prunus domestica, Prunus dulcis, Prunus persica, Punica granatum, Pyrus communis, Quercus palustris, Quercus virginiana, Salix* sp., *Sorbus americana, Tilia* sp., *Ulmus* sp.

Damage: Larvae feed under the bark in the cambium layer of trunks and main branches. They enter through openings created by mechanical damage (e.g. pruning wounds), canker diseases, or frost. As larvae feed horizontally, their galleries may girdle trunks and main branches. Larval galleries are filled with frass, gummy exudate may appear on the bark, and reddish frass can accumulate in bark crevices. Infestations have a negative effect on tree vigour, and attacked branches may break with wind or heavy fruit production. When young trees are attacked at the graft union, mortality may be observed. In the 1990s, *E. semifuneralis* was reported to be the major borer of stone fruits in Michigan, causing up to 33% decline in the life span of sour cherry trees. It is also reported that larvae may carry spores of fungal pathogens (e.g. *Cytospora* sp., *Ceratocystis fimbriata*) and contribute to their spread within the tree.

Adult females lay eggs near areas where callous tissue has developed (e.g. pruning wounds, injured bark, graft unions). Eggs are small (0.3-0.5 mm), oval, whitish then turning pink to deep red as they mature. Larvae vary in colour, ranging from greyish green to greyish purple, with a yellow to brown head capsule, and have 7 instars. They pupate under the bark in loosely spun silken cocoons. Adults are light greyish brown moths (wingspan is 17–28 mm) with reddish brown forewings marked by wavy black and brown vertical bands. Depending on climatic conditions the number of generations vary from 2 to 4 per year.

Dissemination: Adult moths can fly (mainly at night), but no data is available on their flight potential. Over long distances, movements of plants for planting and wood can transport the pest.

Pathways: Plants for planting, wood of host plants of *E. semifuneralis* from countries where it occurs.

Possible risks: Many host plants, in particular *Prunus* fruit trees are major crops in the EPPO region. Interceptions made by Italy have shown that *E. semifuneralis* has the potential to enter the EPPO region via trade. Although more data is needed on the current situation in Türkiye, *E. semifuneralis* has been able to enter the EPPO region. In a pest categorization conducted for the European Union, EFSA (2023) considered that climatic conditions and availability of host plants in some EU countries would allow *E. semifuneralis* to establish and spread, and that impact in cultivated hosts (such as apples, plums, mulberries, almond, olive and ornamental broadleaf trees) would be expected if the pest was to be introduced into the EU. As a result, *E. semifuneralis* has been considered as a potential quarantine pest and temporary measures against it have been taken by the EU.

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EPPO RS 2025/008

Panel review date – Entry date 2025-01

Additional key words: Alert List **Computer codes:** CNIDFL

2025/009 *Monema flavescens* (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae): addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why: *Monema flavescens* (Lepidoptera: Limacodidae), formerly placed in the genus *Cnidocampa*, is native to Asia. In Asia, *M. flavescens* is a highly polyphagous pest of broadleaf trees including economically important fruit and nut trees. It is believed *M. flavescens* is increasing in abundance in its native range. *M. flavescens* has been recently intercepted on imports of bonsai trees into the EPPO Region (EPPO RS 2024/212). Considering these recent findings, the NPPO of the Netherlands suggested that *M. flavescens* could be usefully added to the EPPO Alert List.

Where: *M. flavescens* occurs throughout most of East Asia, and in the state of Massachusetts in the USA where it was introduced in the beginning of the 20th century.
EPPO Region: Russia (Eastern Siberia, Far East)
Asia: Bhutan, China (Anhui, Beijing, Chongqing, Fujian, Gansu, Guangdong, Guangxi, Guizhou, Hainan, Hebei, Heilongjiang, Henan, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Jilin, Liaoning, Neimenggu, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Shandong, Shanghai, Shanxi, Sichuan, Tianjin, Xinjiang, Yunnan, Zhejiang), Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Kyushu, Shikoku), Korea Dem. People's Republic, Korea, Republic, Nepal, Taiwan
North America: United States of America (Massachusetts)

On which plants: *M. flavescens* is a highly polyphagous species that feeds on broadleaf trees (reported on 51 species from 24 families). This includes trees such as *Acer* spp., *Castanea sativa*, *Quercus* spp., *Rhamnus* spp., *Salix* spp., *Ulmus* spp., *Zelkova serrata*, as well as fruit trees including *Citrus x junos, Diospyros kaki, Juglans regia.*, *Malus domestica*, *Prunus* spp., *Pyrus* spp., and *Vaccinium* spp. *M. flavescens* is mainly reported on trees in orchards or urban environments.

Damage: Damage is caused by larvae that defoliate broadleaf tree species. Larvae also have urticating spines which are known human irritants. The level of host damage is unclear and may depend on whether feeding begins before or after fruit maturity, with the lifecycle of *M. flavescens* dependent on the climate. There is limited literature on *M. flavescens* but some reports suggest it is increasingly causing major damage affecting tree vigour and fruit quality in China and South Korea.

Adults are brownish moths, around 30 mm long. In Asia, they emerge in spring. Eggs are deposited on the underside of leaves. Females normally produce 500-1000 eggs. *M.*

flavescens has six to eight instars and fully grown larvae are 18-24 mm long, their body colour is green and yellow with blue, green and purple markings. Larvae create cocoons on branches or sometimes on the trunk. Dependent on the climate, there can be from one to two generations per year with a overwintering period starting in late summer to early autumn (August to October).

Dissemination: Adult moths can fly, but no data is available on their flight potential. Over long distances, movements of plants for planting, or host material can transport the pest.

Pathways: plants for planting, cut branches? cut foliage? wood? of host plants of *M. flavescens* from countries where it occurs

Possible risks: *M. flavescens* occurs in regions with similar climates to the EPPO region, has a wide host range and many host plants are widespread in the EPPO region. If it was introduced, it could cause economic damage similar to that reported in its native region. In its native range, and where it has been introduced outside of its native range, *M. flavescens* is suppressed by the presence of natural enemies, however no known natural enemies are established in the EPPO region. EFSA (2023) notes that current phytosanitary measures in the EU prevent import of many of the hosts of *M. flavescens*. However several hosts are not regulated. It is believed that *M. flavescens* could establish in much of the EPPO region, although the potential economic damage region is unclear.

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EPPO RS 2025/009

Panel review date – Entry date 2025-01

Additional key words: Alert List **Computer codes:** CNIDFL

2025/010 Update on the situation of *Euwallacea fornicatus sensu lato* in Spain

In Spain, *Euwallacea fornicatus sensu lato* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae, EPPO A2 List) was first officially reported in July 2024 in the municipality of Motril (Granada province) in Andalucía (EPPO RS 2024/189). A recent scientific article (Goldarazena *et al.*, 2025) however, mentions that 30 adult specimens had been collected in a dying box elder tree (*Acer negundo)*, in Motril already in April 2022, as well as from a damaged tree of the genus *Parkinsonia* in the same garden in 2023. The pest was identified as *Euwallacea fornicatus sensu stricto*.

Further official surveys were conducted in 2024 in the municipality of Motril. Samples were taken on plants showing symptoms or suspected to be infested by *E. fornicatus sensu lato*: in August 2024 one sample from a *Acer negundo* in a public park of Motril, and in October 2024 four samples from avocado trees (*Persea americana*) in a production orchard and one sample on a castor-oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) growing in a plot without crops. In October-November 2024, the Regional Laboratory confirmed the presence of *E. fornicatus sensu lato* in all samples. A demarcated area (1452 ha) has been established in the municipality of Motril, comprising the infested area (6.36 ha - location of the infested *A. negundo* and the two plots found to be infested) surrounded by a 1-km buffer zone. Eradication measures are taken in the demarcated area in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/2031. Measures include surveys by owners and compulsory notification of findings, application of control measures on host plants at infested sites, selective pruning or destruction of infested trees and shrubs (depending on the level of infestation of the tree crown). Professional operators who produce or sell host plant material should apply additional measures to detect the pest and prevent its spread. Official surveys are intensified and include mass trapping using white traps with attractant. The severity and source of the outbreak are being investigated.

The pest status of *Euwallacea fornicatus sensu lato* in Spain is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication**.

Source:

NPPO of Spain (2024-11).

Goldarazena A, Alcazar-Alba MD, Hulcr J, Johnson AJ (2025) First record of *Euwallacea fornicatus* Eichhoff (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) in Spain. *EPPO Bulletin* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.13064

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Pictures *Euwallacea fornicatus sensu lato*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLBFO/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** EUWAWH, XYLBFO, ES

2025/011 Update on the situation of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in Switzerland

In Switzerland, *Anoplophora glabripennis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae – EPPO A2 List) had been declared eradicated from the country in December 2019 (EPPO RS 2020/005). However, an outbreak was recorded in the municipality of Zell (Canton of Luzern) in August 2022 (EPPO RS 2022/186). This is still under eradication.
The NPPO of Switzerland recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of a new outbreak of *A. glabripennis* in Marly (Canton of Freiburg). In October 2024, a private citizen reported seeing a live female adult whilst pruning maple (*Acer* sp.) and walnut (*Juglans regia*) trees. A survey on the same day confirmed the presence of *A. glabripennis*. Further surveys in the same area conducted in late October discovered one infested maple tree with a female adult specimen and twenty oviposition sites. The infested tree was immediately felled. The area has been demarcated and further surveys are being conducted to investigate the extent of the outbreak, including the use of sniffer dogs.
The pest status of *Anoplophora glabripennis* in Switzerland is declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the country, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Switzerland (2024-11).

Pictures *Anoplophora glabripennis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOLGL/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** ANOLGL, CH

2025/012 *Mesoptyelus impictifrons*, new vector of *Xylella fastidiosa* in the EPPO region

In Israel *Xylella fastidiosa* (EPPO A2 List) subsp. *fastidiosa* was first found in 2017 on almond (*Prunus dulcis*) trees in the Hula Valley (North-Eastern Israel), and in 2021 in five commercial vineyards (*Vitis vinifera*) in the Eastern Upper Galilee, adjacent to the Hula Valley. The pest is under official control (EPPO RS 2019/121, RS 2022/013).

A study was conducted to identify potential vectors of *X. fastidiosa* in Israel and to determine their ability to transmit, and rate of transmission, to almond and grapevine. During a survey conducted from February 2021 to July 2023 at 13 sites in Northern Israel, 1936 specimens were collected in total, belonging to four species: the Cercopidae *Mesoptyelus impictifrons* (73% of specimens) and *Cercopis intermedia* (21%), and the Aphrophoridae *Neophilaenus campestris* (4%) and *Philaenus arslani* (2.6 %). *M. impictifrons* was the only species for which *X. fastidiosa*-infected specimens were found (although *X. fastidiosa*-infected specimens

were found in low numbers). It is noted that *Philaenus spumarius* (Aphrophoridae), one of the main vectors of *X. fastidiosa*, was not found in this survey nor in past surveys in Israel.

Acquisition and transmission of *X. fastidiosa* by *C. intermedia* and *M. impictifrons* were studied in experiments with a 4-day acquisition access period and 4-day inoculation access period. For *C. intermedia*, no acquisition or transmission occurred. For *M. impictifrons*, acquisition rates from grapevine and almond were similar, respectively 35% and 39%. Transmission rates ranged from 55 to 100% infected plants.

The authors conclude there is substantial evidence that *M. impictifrons* is an important vector of *X. fastidiosa* in Israel. This is also the first record of *M. impictifrons* as a vector of *X. fastidiosa*. Limited information is available on *M. impictifrons* in the literature. Further studies are needed on the biology, ecology and role of *M. impictifrons* as a vector of *X. fastidiosa*.

M. impictifrons is recorded only in the Eastern Mediterranean/Middle East. A distribution map was added in EPPO Global Database: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MESTIM/distribution.

Source: Tomer M, Gidron-Heinemann L, Chiel E, Sharon R (2024) A new vector of *Xylella fastidiosa*: the role of *Mesoptyelus impictifrons* as a vector in Israel. *Phytopathology* **114(12)**, 2546-2550.

Additional key words: aetiology, epidemiology

Computer codes: CRCOIN, MESTIM, NEOPCA, PHILAR, XYLEFA, XYLEFF, IL

2025/013 *Paecilomyces formosus*: a new pathogen of trees

Several reports of a new disease of trees caused by *Paecilomyces formosus* (syn. *P. maximus*) have recently been made from several countries around the Mediterranean Basin. The fungus was previously known for its pathogenicity to animals, and humans (causing cutaneous and lung infections). Until recently, on plants *P. formosus* was mainly recorded in association with decaying plant debris and wood. For example, it has been detected in wood samples of *Hevea brasiliensis* in Indonesia, in association with other fungi causing wood stain. It has also been found in wooden electricity utility poles in South Africa.

In Iran, *P. formosus* was first reported causing bark cankers on twigs and branches, as well as dieback on pistachio (*Pistacia* spp.) trees in 2015. It is suspected that the fungus has been causing damage on pistachios much earlier, but was reported at that time as *P. variotii*. Since 2015, *P. formosus* has been reported in many Iranian provinces as the cause of dieback on the following woody plants: *Acer monspessulanum, Anagyris foetida, ,Azadirachta indica Caesalpinia gilliesii, Crataegus pontica, Ficus carica, Haloxylon* sp., *Malus domestica, Nerium oleander, Paliurus spina-christi, Pistacia atlantica, Pistacia mutica, Prunus avium, Prunus dulcis, Prunus lycioides, Prunus microcarpa, Prunus scoparia, Punica granatum, Quercus brantii, Quercus libani, Salix acmophylla, Tamarix aphylla, Tamarix hispida, Tamarix ramosissima, Ziziphus spina-christi*. In particular, recent studies have shown that *P. formosus* played a major role in the dieback of oak trees (*Quercus brantii*) in the Zagros forests (Western Iran) and that it could be detected in various wood boring insects, such as *Acmaeodera* sp., *Chrysobothris affinis*, *Monochamus* sp., *Trichoferus campestris*. However, more studies are needed to determine whether any of these insects could be vectors of *P. formosus*.

In Türkiye, *P. formosus* was first reported in summer 2022 causing disease symptoms on fruit trees. It was observed in apricot (*Prunus armeniaca* cv. Hacıhaliloğlu) trees in a commercial orchard (2 ha) in Elazığ province. Diseased trees (approximately 3%) showed branch cankers, wilting, gummosis, internal wood discoloration and dieback. Dieback and cankers were also observed on cherry (*P. avium*) trees in an orchard in Çınar, district of Diyarbakır. The disease incidence was approximately 5%. Symptoms included blight and branch canker, darkened bark, wood discoloration, and dieback.

In Morocco, *P. formosus* has been isolated from cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) trees in the Tazekka National Park, near the city of Taza. The fungus was isolated from decaying wood.

Source: Chauiyakh O, El Fahime E, Ninich O, Aarabi S, Bouziani M, Chaouch A, Tahir AE (2023) First report of the lignivorous fungus *Paecilomyces maximus* in *Cedrus atlantica* M. in Morocco. *Wood Research* **68**(2), 403-412.

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Additional key words: new pest **Computer codes:** PAECFO, IR, MA, TR

2025/014 First report of *Brenneria goodwinii* and *Gibbsiella quercinecans* in Slovakia

In the EPPO region, acute oak decline has been associated with abiotic factors, as well as with the presence of *Agrilus biguttatus* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) and a complex of bacterial species, mainly *Brenneria goodwinii, Gibbsiella quercinecans* and *Rahnella victoriana* (see EPPO RS 2018/104, 2018/126, 2022/134, 2024/175).
Studies were carried out in Slovakia to identify the causal agents of oak decline in the country. Twenty symptomatic trees were sampled in 14 sites, in the eastern part of the country. *Brenneria goodwinii* and *Gibbsiella quercinecans* were detected in 10 and 3 trees respectively. This is the first time that these two bacteria are detected in Slovakia in association with declining oaks.

Source: Tkaczyk M, Sikora K, Galko J (2024) First report of bacteria causing Acute Oak Decline on *Quercus robur* in Slovakia. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* 169(1), 113-20.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** BRNNGO, GIBSQU, SK

2025/015 Tomato brown rugose fruit virus is now a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest for the EU

In the EU, emergency measures to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum* –ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List) were first adopted in 2019, and further amended (EPPO RS 2019/200, RS 2020/185, RS 2023/130).

From 1 January 2025, ToBRFV is regulated as a Union regulated non-quarantine pest, with requirements for plants for planting (including seeds) of *Solanum lycopersicum* and hybrids thereof, and of *Capsicum annuum*.

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2024/2970 of 29 November 2024 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards measures to prevent the presence of the Tomato brown rugose fruit virus on plants for planting of *Solanum lycopersicum* L. and hybrids thereof and of *Capsicum annuum* L., and establishing the frequency rates of official controls. *OJ L,* 2024/2970, 2.12.2024, **ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2024/2970/oj**

Pictures *Tobamovirus fructirugosum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOBRFV/photos

Additional key words: regulation, RNQP **Computer codes:** TOBRFV, EU

2025/016 Update on the situation of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in the Netherlands

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List) was first detected in the Netherlands in October 2019 (EPPO RS 2019/209) in a greenhouse producing tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) fruit and later other sites in different municipalities (RS 2020/038, RS 2020/225, RS 2021/086). The NPPO of the Netherlands reported that since 2019 ToBRFV had been found in 82 fruit production sites. Eradication has been fully successful at 39 locations. At 4 locations ToBRFV has been eradicated but was again detected. As ToBRFV will be regulated as a Regulated Non-Quarantine Pest within the European Union from January 2025 (RS 2025/015), the NPPO of the Netherlands will no longer aim to eradicate ToBRFV in sites of production of host fruits.

The pest status of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Present**.

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2024-12). https://english.nvwa.nl/topics/pest-reporting/documents/plant/plant-health/pest-reporting/documents/close-out-report-tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus-tobrfv-present-in-the-netherlands-december-2024

Pictures *Tobamovirus fructirugosum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOBRFV/photos

Additional key words: detailed report, RNQP **Computer codes:** TOBRFV, NL

2025/017 First report of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Jersey

The NPPO of Jersey informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first report of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum* – ToBRFV - EPPO A2 List) on its territory. Following a report from a producer of tomato fruit in a single glasshouse (parish of St John) showing symptoms of possible virus infection (mottling and discolouration), an official inspection was carried out in April 2024. Symptomatic tomato fruits were sampled and tested by FERA Plant Clinic (GB). Tests were positive for ToBRFV by ELISA, and Taqman PCR testing confirmed the occurrence of ToBRFV.

Phytosanitary measures have been taken, including the removal and destruction of symptomatic plants and fruit, hygiene measures (use of disposable gloves, tool and footwear disinfection), and staff working in the affected glasshouse do not enter or work in other glasshouses. Asymptomatic fruit continue to be harvested and placed on the market. Post-harvest, the tomato crop will be destroyed and the affected glasshouse disinfected.

The pest status of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in Jersey is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed and under official control**

Source: NPPO of Jersey (2024-12).

Pictures Tomato brown rugose fruit virus. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOBRFV/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** TOBRFV, JS

2025/018 Update of the situation of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in the EPPO region

Ralstonia solanacearum (EPPO A2 List), the causal agent of potato brown rot is subject to annual surveys and phytosanitary measures in the European Union. Following surveys in 2024, the pest status has changed in some countries, as mentioned below.

In Austria *R. solanacearum* had been declared eradicated in 2015 (EPPO RS 2015/028). In November 2024, it was detected in one lot of stored ware potatoes (*Solanum tuberosum)* that had been produced in the municipality of Lassee (Niederösterreich) from imported seed potatoes.
The pest status of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Austria is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication**.

In Italy, *R. solanacearum* is under official control on the mainland. Several outbreaks of *R. solanacearum* have been first reported in Sardegna in 2024 on potato. In June 2024, it was found in the municipality of Arborea (province of Oristano) on potato tubers post-harvest. Further surveys detected the pest in several locations in the province on Oristano in self-produced potato seed tubers in September and in potato plants in November.
The pest status of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication**.

In Slovenia, *R. solanacearum* had been declared eradicated in 2017. It was detected in ware potato tubers in a storage facility in November 2024. Infected potato was grown in a field (1.5 ha) in the municipality of Duplek (Eastern Slovenia), which had no potato production in previous years. The seed potatoes planted in that field originated from the Netherlands.
The pest status of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Slovenia is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication**.

In Sweden, *R. solanacearum* had been last found in 2009. It was detected in potato tubers intended for planting in December 2024. The tubers had been propagated in 2024 in a field in the municipality of Motala (county of Östergötlands). The seed potatoes that were used for this crop originated in another EU Member State.
The pest status of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Sweden is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication**.

In all cases, official measures have been taken according to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1193.

Source: NPPO of Austria (2025-01).
NPPO of Italy (2024-07, 2025-01).
NPPO of Slovenia (2024-11).
NPPO of Sweden (2024-12).

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/119 of 11 July 2022 establishing measures to eradicate and prevent the spread of *Ralstonia solanacearum* (Smith 1896) Yabuuchi *et al*. 1996 emend. Safni *et al*. 2014. OJL 185 12.07.2022, 27-46, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/1193/oj

Pictures *Ralstonia solanacearum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/RALSSL/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes: RALSSL, RALSSO, AT, IT, SE, SI**

2025/019 Olfactory cues for host selection in Ganaspis brasiliensis G1

Ganaspis brasiliensis G1 (Hymenoptera: Figitidae) is a classical biological control agent of *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae – EPPO A2 List). It has been released in Northern Italy and studies have shown it can survive in the areas where released (EPPO RS 2023/023). The G1 lineage only parasitises host larvae that develop in the ripening fresh fruit, on the plant, and not larvae that develop in decaying fruit. To assess the chemical cues that are utilised by *G. brasiliensis* females to locate (1) the host fruit, (2) suitable larvae and (3) to tell the difference between fresh and decaying fruit, experiments were carried out using a choice olfactometer and blueberry bioassays. The olfactory bioassays presented a choice to *G. brasiliensis* G1 females and included - *D. suzukii* infested fruit, healthy fruit, and pure air. Females showed a time dependant attraction to the cues based on the stage of the fruit (healthy versus decaying) where females were attracted to infested fruit during the early stages of infestation. Females were repelled by fruit degraded by larval feeding. The attractiveness of *G. brasiliensis* G1 females towards fruits infested by young larvae was associated with the detection of VOCs released by the infested blueberries, and the hosts cuticular hydrocarbons. *G. brasiliensis* G1 females were repelled by a fermentation compound produced by microorganisms likely to be carried inside the fruit by the flies.

Source: Giorgini M, Rossi-Stacconi MV, Pace R, Tortorici F, Cascone P, Formisano G, Spiezia G, Fellin L, Carlin S, Tavella L, Anfora G, Guerrieri E (2024) Foraging behavior of *Ganaspis brasiliensis* in response to temporal dynamics of volatile release by the fruit-*Drosophila suzukii* complex. *Biological Control* **195,** 105562. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2024.105562

Additional key words: biological control **Computer codes:** DROSSU, GANABR, IT

2025/020 Prioritizing invasive plants for biological control in in western USA

In the United States of America, between 1902 and 2020, 83 weed species have been the target of biological control programmes. With an increased number of potential targets, and an overall trend in decreasing funds, prioritising targets for biological control is important. The Biological Control Target Selection (BCTS) system was developed by researchers in South Africa to address this issue and it was subsequently adapted for the USA and applied to 295 western state-regulated invasive plant species. The USA BCTS system contains three sections (1) the impact of the target species, (2) the likelihood of achieving control and (3) the investment required. The responses to individual questions within each section are scored and an overall score, the BCTS index is calculated as: (∑ Section 1) x [(∑ Section 2) + (∑ Section 3)], where the higher the score the higher priority. The outcome of the analysis identified 20 high priority invasive plant species for biological control in the Western USA (Table 1).

Table 1. Top twenty species prioritised for biological control in the Western USA

Species	Family	BCTS score	Origin	EPPO Status
Alhagi maurorum	Fabaceae	3024	Asia/Europe	
Araujia sericifera	Apocynaceae	3010	S. America	L IAP
Tamarix aphylla	Tamaricaceae	2997	Africa/Asia	
Rubus fruticosus	Rosaceae	2960	Europe	
Buddleia davidii	Scrophulariaceae	2937	Asia	L IAP
Clematis vitalba	Ranunculaceae	2835	Africa/Asia/Europe	

Bryonia alba	Cucurbitaceae	2800	Asia/Europe	
Spartina anglica	Poaceae	2775	Europe	
Bothriochloa ischaemum	Poaceae	2769	Africa/Asia/Europe	
Iris pseudacorus	Iridaceae	2720	Africa/Asia/Europe	
Myriophyllum spicatum	Haloragaceae	2720	Africa/Asia/Europe	
Nardus stricta	Poaceae	2720	Widespread	
Rorippa austriaca	Brassicaceae	2720	Asia/Europe	
Cabomba caroliniana	Cabombaceae	2688	Americas	L IAP
Spartium junceum	Fabaceae	2686	Europe	
Zygophyllum fabago	Zygophyllaceae	2686	Asia	
Sphaerophysa salsula	Fabaceae	2628	Asia	
Koenigia polystachya	Polygonaceae	2627	Asia	L IAP
Daphne laureola	Thymelaeaceae	2590	Africa/Europe	
Ranunculus acris	Ranunculaceae	2590	Asia/Europe	

L IAP: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants

Source: Winston RL, Schwarzländer M, Hinz HL, Rushton J, Pratt PD (2024) Prioritizing weeds for biological control development in the western USA: Results from the adaptation of the biological control target selection system. *Biological Control* **198**, 105634. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2024.105634

Additional key words: biological control

Computer codes: US, AJASE, ALHPS, BUDDA, BYOAL, CABCA, CLVVT, DAPLA, DIHIS, IRIPS, MYPSP, NADST, POLPS, RANAC, RORAU, RUBFR, SPTAN, SPUJU, SWASA, TAAAP, ZYGFA

2025/021 Pre-emptive biological control of *Agrilus planipennis* in Europe

Agrilus planipennis (Coleoptera: Buprestidae – EPPO A2 List) is a woodboring pest of *Fraxinus* species in North America, European Russia and Ukraine. With further spread it can threaten the European ash *Fraxinus excelsior* in the rest of the EPPO region. The potential for the biological control of *A. planipennis* using four parasitoids was evaluated using a pre-emptive biological control framework developed within the Euphresco Project 'Preparedness in biological control of priority biosecurity threats'. The four Hymenopteran parasitoids; *Oobius agrili* (Encyrtidae), *Spathius agrili* (Braconidae), *Spathius galinae* and *Tetrastichus planipennisi* (Eulophidae) have been approved for release in North America and were tested for Europe using the pre-emptive framework. Three of the parasitoids, *O. agrili*, *S. galinae*, and *T. planipennisi* were found suitable for pre-emptive biological control in Europe, based mainly on the performance and adaptation to new environmental conditions in the USA. However, *S. agrili* has shown only limited establishment in North America, especially in areas which climate match areas in Europe where *Fraxinus* species are present. Based on these results, *S. agrili* was deemed less suitable for pre-emptive biological control of *A. planipennis* in Europe.

Source: Horrocks KJ, Seehausen ML, Down RE, Audsley N, Maggini R, Collatz J (2024) Assessing the feasibility of pre-emptive biological control against the emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*, an imminent biosecurity threat to Europe. *Biological Control* **198**, 105641 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2024.105641

Euphresco Digital Research Object Portal: https://drop.euphresco.net/data/899689f2-2e7f-4d07-998c-fc3ba70c4f19/

Additional key words: biological control

Computer codes: CA, US, AGRLPL, OOBIAG, SPAHAG, SPAHGA, TETSPL

2025/022 Update of EPPO PM 6 Standard

The Joint EPPO/IOBC Panel on Biological Control Agents have updated the EPPO Standard PM 6/2(4) *Import and release of non-indigenous biological control agents*. The update includes a comprehensive revision of the information requirements for an application for the release of a biological control agent in the EPPO region. The update also provides the user with a separate word file of the application form for ease of use. The guidance on how to complete the form has also been updated and this is also included as a word file.

Source: EPPO (2024) PM 6/2(4) Import and release of non-indigenous biological control agents. *EPPO Bulletin* **54,** 307 - 309. https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.12153

Additional key words: biological control, publication

2025/023 First report of *Acalypha australis* in Albania

Acalypha australis (Euphorbiaceae) is native to Asia where it is recorded as a weed in gardens and road embankments and waste places. It can cause economic losses in a number of crops including cotton, maize, root and tuberous crops, and vegetables. It is established in Australia, and some countries in the EPPO region, including Armenia, Italy, Ukraine and Türkiye, where it has entered as a contaminant of seed. In Albania, in 2022, *A. australis* was found in Tirana with a small number of specimens found during a survey of the urban flora. In the following year, more extensive surveys were conducted and *A. australis* was found in ten additional areas of Tirana where large populations (up to 100 individuals) were recorded growing along pavements and embankments. There is the potential that *A. australis* will become invasive in Albania, and propagules from urban populations may spread into the natural environment and agricultural areas leading to environmental and economic impacts.

Source: Saliaj O, Mesiti A, Mullaj A (2024) *Acalypha australis* (Euphorbiaceae), a new alien species in the urban areas of Tirana (Albania). *Flora Mediterranea* **34**, 5-11.

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, new record **Computer codes:** ACCAU; AL

2025/024 First report of *Panicum miliaceum* (Poaceae) in Tunisia

The native range of *Panicum miliaceum* (Poaceae) is thought to be Asia, whilst it is a widely cultivated fodder crop in North America and other regions of the world. In Tunisia, it is reported as a naturalising species found in four locations in the northern and central regions of the country. In Tunisia, it is found growing in grassland habitats, ruderal habitats (e.g. roadsides, railways) and in agricultural areas. In these areas, populations of up to 100 individuals have been found. Pathways for entry into Tunisia have not been confirmed though seed is often a component of commercial bird seed. Further spread of this species from existing populations should be monitored.

Source: Saâd W, El Mokni R (2024) First records of alien *Panicum miliaceum* subsp. *miliaceum* (Poaceae) in Tunisia. *Botanica* **30,** 150-155.

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, new record **Computer codes:** PANMI; TN

2025/025 First report of three *Solanum* species in Morocco

During surveys conducted between 2018 and 2023, three alien species of *Solanum* were first recorded in Morocco.

Solanum abutiloides is native to Argentina and Bolivia. It is introduced to the EPPO region in Austria and the Canary Islands (ES). In Morocco, three individual plants were found in a ruderal habitat south-east of Rabat. The pathway of introduction of *S. abutiloides* in Morocco remains unknown though it is suggested that migratory birds may spread the species.

Solanum bonariense is native to Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay. It has been introduced to the EPPO region (e.g. Algeria, the Balearic Islands (ES), the Canary Islands (ES), Italy, Spain (mainland) and Tunisia). In Morocco, patches of *S. bonariense* (up to 150 individuals covering a 100 m strip) were found on the banks of Lake Sidi Boughaba. The current population is probably a result of propagules escaping from planted individuals.

Solanum nitidibaccatum is native to South America and is recorded as an alien species in Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand. It was discovered in the Oriental High-Atlas region of Morocco at two locations. The first is in the Imilchil region, where a small population of approximately 10 individuals were found growing alongside cultivated crops. The second, was found in the Boutaghrar region, near the River M'goun, where a single population comprised of four individuals was found. Potentially, the species entered Morocco as a seed contaminant of an annual crop.

Source: Khamar H, Dallahi Y, Homrani Bakali A (2024) New records of three alien *Solanum* species in Morocco. *Check List* **20**(2), 544–552.

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, new record **Computer codes:** SOLBO, SOLBT, SOLPN, MA

2025/026 Prioritizing management of invasive alien plant species

Prioritization of invasive alien plants can help focus resources on those species which can have the most impact on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Using Italy as a case study, a new approach to prioritizing invasive alien plants for management has been developed. Through expert consultation invasive non-native plant species were selected based on (1) species not included on the (EU) List of Union concern or the EPPO Lists of alien plants, (2) species with recognised or potential invasive behaviour. Resultant species were then modelled for their potential distribution based on current and future climatic scenarios. Further, a combination of Non-metric MultiDimensional Scaling (NMDS) and cluster analysis was conducted to discriminate between biogeographical regions in Italy and to produce groups of species according to management actions. Finally, the species were evaluated for management, based on the feasibility of eradication, control and containment, and monitoring. For each management action a high or low priority was given. In total, 34 invasive alien plants were identified and seven were selected for eradication action, six for monitoring action, while the remaining species were deemed suitable for control and containment.

Table 1. Thirty-four invasive alien plants identified for prioritization of management in Italy.

Species	Family	Management type	Priority
Amaranthus emarginatus	Amaranthaceae	Eradication	Low
Bidens vulgata	Asteraceae	Eradication	Low
Sida rhombifolia	Malvaceae	Eradication	Low
Leucaena leucocephala subsp. *glabrata*	Fabaceae	Eradication	High
Nelumbo nucifera	Nelumbonaceae	Eradication	High
Phyllostachys aurea	Poaceae	Eradication	High

Paraserianthes lophantha subsp. *lophantha*	Fabaceae	Eradication	High
Acer negundo	Sapindaceae	Control and containment	Low
Agave americana	Asparagaceae	Control and containment	Low
Artemisia annua	Asteraceae	Control and containment	Low
Austrocylindropuntia subulata	Cactaceae	Control and containment	Low
Chasmanthe floribunda	Iridaceae	Control and containment	Low
Cyperus eragrostis	Cyperaceae	Control and containment	Low
Dactyloctenium aegyptium	Poaceae	Control and containment	Low
Gomphocarpus fruticosa	Apocynaceae	Control and containment	Low
Opuntia stricta	Cactaceae	Control and containment	Low
Vachellia karroo	Fabaceae	Control and containment	Low
Ambrosia psilostachya	Asteraceae	Control and containment	High
Anredera cordifolia	Basellaceae	Control and containment	High
Cenchrus longisetus	Poaceae	Control and containment	High
Cyperus alternifolius subsp. *flabelliformis*	Cyperaceae	Control and containment	High
Melia azedarach	Meliaceae	Control and containment	High
Mirabilis jalapa	Nyctaginaceae	Control and containment	High
Parkinsonia aculeata	Fabaceae	Control and containment	High
Salpichroa origanifolia	Solanaceae	Control and containment	High
Senecio angulatus	Asteraceae	Control and containment	High
Yucca gloriosa	Asparagaceae	Control and containment	High
Zantedeschia aethiopica	Araceae	Control and containment	High
Robinia pseudoacacia	Fabaceae	Monitoring	Low
Sorghum halepense	Poaceae	Monitoring	Low
Washingtonia filifera	Arecaceae	Monitoring	Low
Amaranthus retroflexus	Amaranthaceae	Monitoring	High
Arundo donax	Poaceae	Monitoring	High
Pseudotsuga menziesii	Pinaceae	Monitoring	High

Source: Lozano V, Marzialetti F, Acosta ATR, Arduini I, Bacchetta G, Domina G, Laface VLA, Lazzeri V, Montagnani C, Musarella CM, Nicolella G, Podda L, Spampinato G, Tavilla G, Brundu G (2024) Prioritizing management actions for invasive non-native plants through expert-based knowledge and species distribution models. Ecological Indicators 166, 112279. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2024.112279

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, prioritization

Computer codes: 1AMAG, AMALI, ABKDO, ACAKA, ACRNE, AGVAM, ALBLO, AMARE, AMBPS, ARTAN, BIDVU, BOGCO, CSHFL, CYPER, CYPFL, DTTAE, GOPFR, LUALG, MEIAZ, MIBJA, NELNU, OPUEX, OPUST, PAKAC, PESVI, PLLAR, PSTME, ROBPS, SAPOR, SENAN, SIDRH, SORHA, UCCGL, WATFI, ZNTAE, IT

2025/027 New EPPO PM 3 Standard on invasive alien plants

A new EPPO PM 3 (Phytosanitary Procedures) Standard has been adopted which describes inspection procedures for consignments of plants for planting imported with soil or other growing medium (and aquatic plants with water) to avoid the import of regulated invasive plants. The Standard does not cover inspection of seeds and plants for planting such as tubers, rhizomes imported as the commodity itself, without soil or growing medium, nor does it cover inspection of pests other than plants. The Standard describes (1) the inspection to check whether the plants for planting are regulated or prohibited as invasive alien plants, and (2) the inspection and sampling of soil or other growing medium associated with plants for planting to ensure it is free from invasive alien plant as contaminants. The Standard provides guidance that may be relevant to inspections for exports

Source: EPPO (2024) PM 3/97 Inspection of consignments of plants for planting for invasive alien plants. *EPPO Bulletin*, **54(3),** 274-288. https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.13033

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, publication