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2025/055 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**

Ceratitis quinaria (Diptera: Tephritidae- EU A1 Quarantine pest) occurs in Ghana where it is causing damage on yellow plum (*Ximenia americana)* (Opoku *et al*., 2025). It was first recorded in the forest-savanna transition zone (Awarikabey *et al*., 2025).

Citrus leprosis virus C2 *(Cilevirus colombiaense* - CiLV-C2 – EU A1 Quarantine pest) is first reported from Australia. It was detected in Brisbane (Queensland) in a cultivated *Hoya macgillivrayi* plant. The infection was not systemic (Chao *et al*., 2025).

Ipomovirus cucurbitavenaflavi (Squash vein yellowing virus, EU A1 quarantine pest) was reported in Jordan on symptomatic squash (*Cucurbita pepo*), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), and melon (*Cucumis melo*) during field surveys in September 2022. This is the first observation of *I. cucurbitavenaflavi* in Jordan and the first record of *C. sativus* as a host (Hussein *et al*., 2024).

Pochazia shantungensis (Hemiptera: Ricaniidae – EPPO Alert List) is reported for the first time in Bulgaria. Two specimens were observed in November 2024 near the flower market in the city of Burgas (region of Northern Thrace) on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. The authors consider that the insect may have been introduced with imported plants. It is not known whether the species could overwinter in this area (Gjonov & Simov, 2025).

The red palm mite *Raoiella indica* (Acari: Tenuipalpidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) occurs in Morrocco. It was recorded in 5% of farms cultivating date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera)* in the oasis of Tafilalet region in 2017 (Hamriri *et al*., 2024).

Rhynchophorus ferrugineus (Coleoptera: Curculionidae - EPPO A2 List) and *Parasaissetia nigra* (Hemiptera: Coccidae - EU RNQP) are first recorded from Azerbaijan in a botanical garden. Official measures are applied (Gasimov *et al*., 2024).

- **Detailed records**

In France *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – EPPO A2 List) was first found in Var department (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region) in December 2023, in Vaucluse department (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region) in April 2024, in Corse-du-Sud department (Corse region) in July 2024, and in Bouches-du-Rhône department (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region) in July-October 2024. Infested areas have been demarcated and official measures applied (NPPO of France, 2025).
The pest status of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* in France is officially declared as: **Present only in specific parts of the area concerned, under containment, in case eradication is impossible**.

In Australia, the presence of *Bactericera cockerelli* (Hemiptera: Triozidae – EPPO A1 List), the vector of zebra chip disease, was first reported in 2017 in Western Australia (EPPO RS 2017/034). It was first reported in Victoria in November 2024 near Portarlington, on the Bellarine Peninsula. Testing of insects and plant material found no evidence of '*Candidatus*

Liberibacter solanacearum', the bacterium responsible for zebra chip in potatoes, in *B. cockerelli* or in plants. An infested area has been defined where official measures are being implemented (Anonymous, 2024).
The situation of *Bactericera cockerelli* in Australia can be described as: **Present, under surveillance.**

In the Russian Federation, brown spot needle blight caused by *Lecanosticta acicola* (EPPO A2 List) was first reported in 2018 in southern Russia (EPPO RS 2019/040). It was also reported on *Pinus mugo* in Moscow, central Russia, in 2019.

In Italy, *Platynota stultana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae – omnivorous leafroller- EPPO A2 List) was first recorded in Puglia region in 2022 (EPPO RS 2023/058). In 2024, it was detected in Campania in four municipalities in the province of Napoli (Portici, Castellammare di Stabia, Cercola, Sant'Anastasi). No damage to crops is reported. In Portici and Sant'Anastasi it was recorded on wild *Conyza* sp. plants. In Castellammare di Stabia, specimens were caught in a light trap, and in Cercola only one specimen was collected in a sweep net (NPPO of Italy, 2024-12).
The pest status of *Platynota stultana* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned**.

In Japan, occasional outbreaks of *Zeugodacus cucurbitae* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) have been reported in the past and eradicated (EPPO RS 1993/116). In March 2024, this fruit fly was reported in the northern part of Okinawa island (Ryukyu Archipelago), where official measures are applied to eradicate the pest.

- **Regulation**

A new Commission Implementing Regulation (2025/311) was published recently defining measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List), *Bactrocera latifrons* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) and *Bactrocera zonata* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A2 List). This Regulation should apply from 1 March 2025. The Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/311 defines host plants that are cultivated in the EU and that should be surveyed.

- **New host plants**

In Cyprus *Dacus ciliatus* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A2 List) was found infesting a crop of black-eyed peas (*Vigna unguiculata*), as well as the weed squirting cucumber (*Ecballium elaterium*). These are the first records of these plant species as hosts of *D. ciliatus* (NPPO of Cyprus, 2025).

Sources: Anonymous (2024) Biosecurity Update: Restricted zoning in response to Tomato Potato Psyllid (TPP) detection in Victoria. Agriculture Victoria. https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1087790/BU-TPP-Dec-2024.pdf

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Chao HY, Dietzgen RG, Thomas JE, Geering AD (2025) First report of the hibiscus strain of citrus leprosis virus C2 (*Cilevirus colombiaense*) infecting *Hoya macgillivrayi* in Australia. *Australasian Plant Pathology* **54**(1), 33-3.

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/311 of 14 February 2025 on measures to eradicate and to prevent the establishment and spread within the Union territory of fruit flies of the species *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel), *Bactrocera latifrons* (Hendel) and *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders). *OJ L, 2025/311*. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/311/oj

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Gjonov I, Simov N (2025) First record of *Pochazia shantungensis* (Chou & Lu, 1977)(Hemiptera: Ricaniidae) in Bulgaria: alien and potentially invasive species on Via Pontifica. *Historia naturalis bulgarica* **47**(3), 49-53.

Hamriri K, Atmani M, Abidar A, Aziz L, Fagroud M, Bouamri R (2024) Sustainable oases agriculture: A journey through Morocco's date palm production system. *Journal of Water and Land Development* **60**(I–III): 1–11. DOI 10.24425/jwld.2023.148457

Hussein A, Salem N, Margaria P, Menzel W, Abu Muslem M (2024) First report of squash vein yellowing virus naturally infecting cucumber, squash, and melon in Jordan. *Plant Disease* **108**(10), 3204. https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-06-24-1264-PDN

NPPO of Cyprus (2025-03).
NPPO of France (2025-01).
NPPO of Italy (2024-12).

Okinawa Prefecture (2025) Control measures for *Zeugodacus cucurbitae*. https://www.pref.okinawa.jp/shigoto/nogyo/1010700/1018771/1031557.html

Opoku E, Haseeb M, Rodriguez EJ, Steck GJ, Cabral MJ (2025) Economically important fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) in Ghana and their regulatory pest management. Insects 16(3), 285. https://doi.org/10.3390/insects16030285

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

Computer codes: ALECSN, CERTQU, CILVC2, DACUCI, DACUCU, DACUDO, DACULA, DACUZO, PARZCO, PLAAST, POCZSH, RAOIIN, RHYCFE, SAISNI, SCIRAC, SQVYVX, AU, AZ, BG, CY, EU, FR, GH, IT, JO, JP, MA, RU

2025/056 Recent updates in the EPPO Global Database

The EPPO Global Database is continuously updated with new information. Here are listed some recent updates.

The following new or revised distribution maps are available:

- *Asclepias speciosa* (showy milkweed) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ASCSP/distribution
- *Ceratitis anonae* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EU A1 quarantine pest as *Ceratitis* spp.) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERTAN/distribution
- *Ceratitis quilicii* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EU A1 quarantine pest as *Ceratitis* spp.) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERTQI/distribution

- *Dacus frontalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EU A1 quarantine pest as *Dacus* spp.) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUFR/distribution

The host lists of the following pests have been recently reviewed and updated with references:
- Citrus mosaic virus *(Badnavirus tessellocitri* - CiYMV - EPPO A1 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CMBV00/hosts
- *Citrus tristeza virus (Closterovirus tristezae* - CTV - EPPO A2 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CTV000/hosts
- *Malacosoma americanum (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae* - EPPO A1 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MALAAM/hosts
- *Paraburkholderia caryophylli* (bacterial wilt of carnation - EPPO A2 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PSDMCA/hosts
- *Premnotrypes suturicallus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae - EPPO A1 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PREMSU/hosts
- *Pseudocercospora angolensis* (leaf spot of citrus -EPPO A1 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERCAN/hosts
- *Stagonosporopsis andigena* (leaf spot of potato - EPPO A1 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHOMAN/hosts
- *Trogoderma granarium* (Coleoptera: Dermestidae – EPPO A2 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TROGGA/hosts

The list of regulated organisms from the following country has been recently reviewed:
- China: https://gd.eppo.int/country/CN/regulated

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2025-03).

Additional key words: publication, database, quarantine list, host plant

Computer codes: ASCSP, CERCAN, CERTAN, CERTQI, CMBV00, CTV000, DACUFR, MALAAM, PHOMAN, PREMSU, PSDMCA, TROGGA, CN

2025/057 Update on citrus quarantine pests in the USA

- *'Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' (EPPO A1 List)

In the USA, *'Candidatus* L. asiaticus' is currently found throughout Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. It is also found in portions of the following states: Alabama, California, Louisiana, South Carolina, and Texas. Quarantined areas in California have recently been extended. It was recently reported from Arizona and Mississippi.

In Arizona *'Candidatus* L. asiaticus' was detected during routine surveys in December 2024 in a residential citrus tree in Nogales (Santa Cruz county). Nogales is located close to the southern border with Mexico and over 280 km from any citrus production in Arizona. The local authorities consider that the sparse desert landscape between Nogales and any production citrus, limits the risk for spread to commercial citrus. Further surveys will be conducted in Santa Cruz county to determine the extent of the infestation and quarantine and mitigation measures that are appropriate for this situation.

In Mississippi, *'Candidatus* L. asiaticus' was first detected in February 2025 in plant tissue samples collected from residential properties in Harrison County. Official measures are applied in the entire state.

The pest status of *'Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' in the USA is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed** and **under official control.**

- *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae – EPPO A1 List)

This vector of *'Candidatus* L. asiaticus' was reported in the USA in Arizona in 2017 and Nevada in 2019. Quarantine measures are now applied in the entire states of Alabama, Arizona, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, as well as in portions of California, Nevada and South Carolina.

- *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (citrus black spot - EPPO A1 List)

In the USA *P. citricarpa* was first reported in 2010 in Florida (EPPO RS 2010/077). As of May 2024, the disease was confined to portions of seven counties in south-west Florida. Quarantine areas have been extended to additional sections in the following counties: Collier, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Manatee.
The pest status of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in the USA is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**

- *Xanthomonas citri* subsp. *citri* (EPPO A1 List)

In the USA citrus canker occurs in Florida (EPPO RS 2006/123), Louisiana (EPPO RS 2013/171), Texas (RS 2017/028), Alabama (RS 2021/146), as well as in a commercial citrus grove Decatur county in Georgia and in a nursery South Carolina in 2022 (RS 2022/096). According to the USDA-Aphis website as of March 2025, citrus canker occurs throughout Florida and in limited areas of Alabama, Louisiana, and Texas.
The pest status of *Xanthomonas citri* pv. *citri* in the USA is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: Arizona department of Agriculture (2025-01-28) https://agriculture.az.gov/news/press-release-citrus-greening-disease-detection-nogales-az-01282025

NAPPO Pest Alert System Official Pest Reports - USA
- 2024-05-17: *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (Citrus Black Spot): APHIS updates the quarantine areas in Florida
-2025-02-24: APHIS establishes a citrus greening (Huanglongbing) quarantine in Mississippi
- 2025-03-14: APHIS expands the citrus greening (Huanglongbing) quarantined area in California https://www.pestalerts.org/nappo/official-pest-reports/1136/

USDA-APHIS Citrus Diseases
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/citrus-diseases
Interactive map of regulated areas for quarantine pests of citrus https://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant-pests-diseases/citrus-diseases/citrus-quarantine-map

Pictures *'Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus'. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LIBEAS/photos
Diaphorina citri. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DIAACI/photos
Phyllosticta citricarpa. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GUIGCI/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** DIAAC, LIBEAS, XANTCI, US

2025/058 First report on *Euwallacea similis* in the EPPO region

Euwallacea similis (Coleoptera: Scolytinae, EU A1 Quarantine pest as 'non-European *Scolytinae* spp.') is a highly polyphagous ambrosia bark beetle native to South East Asia and reported across Oceania and Africa. It was previously introduced, and established, in Texas, USA in 2002 (EPPO RS 2006/208).

In May 2024, an agronomist observed symptoms of ambrosia bark beetle infestation in a private facility in Montechiarugolo (Parma Province, Emilia-Romagna Region, Italy). Symptomatic plants showed bark beetle holes and frass. The National Reference Institute for Plant Protection investigated in late May 2024 and found specimens of *E. similis* and other bark beetles on a *Ficus macrophylla* tree and on window sills and furnishings next to the tree. The identity of *E. similis* was confirmed by morphological and molecular testing. The infested *F. macrophylla* tree had been shipped from a plant nursery in Alicante, Spain. This is the first report of *E. similis* in Italy.

It may be noted that in March and in April 2021, *E. similis* had been found (a single individual in both cases) in a commercial greenhouse growing (sub)tropical plants in the Netherlands during surveys conducted as part of an eradication programme against *Euwallacea fornicatus* sensu lato.

Source: Toccafondi P, Vitale S, Rizzo D, Luongo L, Binazzi F, Garaguso I, Benvenuti C, Mercuri I, Resta E, Pennacchio F (2025) First report in Europe of *Euwallacea similis* (Ferrari) (Coleoptera Curculionidae Scolytinae Xyleborini). *Redia* **108**(2025), 83-89. http://dx.doi.org/10.19263/REDIA-108.25.09

NVWA (2022) Quick scan for *Euwallacea similis*. QS2021ENT007. Available at https://pra.eppo.int/pra/16bdb992-11b7-4012-a71b-228988378883.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** XYLBSI, IT, NL

2025/059 First report of the African leafhopper *Leptodelphax maculigera* in South America, and its potential role as vector of corn stunt pathogens in Brazil

The African planthopper *Leptodelphax maculigera* (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) was reported for the first time in the State of Goiás, Brazil in November 2022. This oligophagous species develops on Poaceae and was recorded in Brazil on maize (*Zea mays*), elephant grass (*Cenchrus purpureus*) and brachiaria grass (*Brachiaria* sp.). Its identity was confirmed by morphological identification. This is the first report of *L. maculigera* outside of the African continent. It has since been detected in the states of Parana, Rio Grande do Sul and Sao Paulo throughout 2023, as well as in Santa Catarina and Minas Gerais in 2024. Pearl millet (*Cenchrus americanus*) has been identified as a major host

Experiments conducted in the field found that *L. maculigera* tested positive for three corn stunt complex pathogens *'Candidatus* Phytoplasma asteris' (EU RNQP), maize rayado fino virus *(Marafivirus maydis*- MRFV) and maize striate mosaic *virus (Mastrevirus striatis* -MSMV) but did not test positive for *Spiroplasma kunkelii* (formerly EPPO Alert List) suggesting that *L. maculigera* is a potential vector of at least three pathogens from the corn stunt complex. Another study (Vilanova *et al.*, 2025) showed that *L. maculigera* could acquire but does not transmit MSMV and MRFV. Further investigations are needed to confirm the ability of *L. maculigera* to transmit these viruses.

Previously only *Dalbulus maidis* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) has been confirmed as a vector for corn stunt complex pathogens in Brazil.

Source: Canale MC, Pompelli Manica MA, Silva de Andrade MV, Castilhos RV (2024) *Leptodelphax maculigera* (Hemiptera: Delphacidae) harbors the corn stunt complex pathogens. *Plant Disease* **108** (9), 2653-2657.

Ferreira KR, Bartlett CR, Asche M, Silva LR, Magalhães VS, Albernaz-Godinho KC (2024) First record of the African species *Leptodelphax maculigera* (Stål, 1859)(Hemiptera: Delphacidae) in Brazil. *Neotropical Entomology* 53(1), 171-174.

Silva PD, de Souza IRP, Mendes SM, da Silva AF, Landau EC, dos Santos NM, Redoan ACM, Lima DD (2025). Co-ocorrência e frequência de *Leptodelphax maculigera* e *Dalbulus maidis* em milho e plantas daninhas no estado de Minas Gerais, Brasil. *Pesquisa Agropecuária Tropical* 55 (2025), p. e80820. https://revistas.ufg.br/pat/article/view/80820.

Vilanova ES, Zuin AJ, Spada LC, Froza JA, Mejdalani GL, Lopes JR (2025) Identification of pearl millet as a major host of *Leptodelphax maculigera* (Hemiptera: Delphacidae), a potential vector of plant viruses. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection* **132**(2), 76.

Additional key words: new record, vector **Computer codes:** LPDHMA, PHYPAS, SPIRKU, MFRV00, MASMV0, BR

2025/060 Update on the distribution of *Dacus frontalis*, and first report from Islas Canarias (ES)

Dacus frontalis is an important pest of cucurbit fruits in parts of Africa and the Middle East and was recently recorded in North Africa (EPPO RS 2015/137, RS 2024/032).

When preparing a new distribution map for the pumpkin fruit fly *D. frontalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU A1 Quarantine Pest as *Dacus* spp.) the EPPO Secretariat came across recent new records, as follows:

- Islas Canarias (Spain)

D. frontalis was first reported in Islas Canarias at the end of 2018 on the island of Lanzarote, in 2019 on the island of Fuerteventura, and later on the island of Gran Canaria. In Tenerife, it was found in August 2023 in several municipalities in the south of the island. It is recorded as causing damage on cucurbit crops such as watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*). It is considered that the most likely route of entry was infested fruit. Communicaton campaigns are conducted to inform farmers about this new pest.

- Ghana

D. frontalis is listed in the economically important fruits flies in Ghana (Opoku *et al.*, 2025).

- Mozambique

D. frontalis occurs in Mozambique, in Boane district and Namaacha district (both in Maputo province, southern Mozambique). It is noted as a minor economic pest (De Meyer *et al.*, 2023).

Source: AgroCabildo (2024) La mosca de la calabaza, *Dacus frontalis*. identificación y control.16 pp. https://www.agrocabildo.org/publica/Publicaciones/otra_848_Dacus%20frontalis.pdf

De Meyer M, Bota L, Daniel B, Mussumbe M, Vandenbosch M, Canhanga L, Cambula E, Mansell MW, Cugala D, Virgilio M (2023) A checklist of the dacine fruit flies (Diptera, Tephritidae, Dacinae) of Mozambique. African Entomology 31: e15585. 9 pp. Available from: https://www.africanentomology.com/article/view/15585

Opoku E, Haseeb M, Rodriguez EJ, Steck GJ, Cabral MJ (2025) Economically important fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae) in Ghana and their regulatory pest management. *Insects* **16**(3), 285. https://doi.org/10.3390/insects16030285

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** DACUFR, ES, GH, MZ

2025/061 Incursion of *Dacus frontalis* in Belgium

D. frontalis is an important pest of cucurbit fruits in parts of Africa and the Middle East and was recorded in Tunisia in 2014 (EPPO RS 2015/137) and more recently in Algeria, Morocco (EPPO RS 2024/032) and Islas Canarias (RS 2025/060).

In Belgium, a single adult specimen of *Dacus frontalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU A1 Quarantine Pest as *Dacus* spp.) was intercepted in September 2024 in a trap intended for *Anastrepha ludens* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EPPO A1 list). The interception occurred in the immediate vicinity of fruit and vegetable importers and wholesalers in Brussels. The NPPO of Belgium considers that this finding is not related to an outbreak. Further surveillance was carried out from September to December 2024 and no further *D. frontalis* were found.

The pest status of *Dacus frontalis* in Belgium is officially declared as: **Absent, one isolated post entry finding in trap near point of entry/fruit market, under further surveillance, intercepted only.**

Source: NPPO of Belgium (2024-09, 2024-12).

Additional key words: incursion **Computer codes:** DACUFR, BE

2025/062 Incursion of *Bactrocera zonata* and *Bactrocera correcta* in Italy

The NPPO of Italy reported the following findings as part of their monitoring activities for fruit flies:

- *Bactrocera zonata* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A2 list)

In October 2024, one adult of *B. zonata* was caught in a trap in a city park in Bologna (Emilia-Romagna region) as part of the monitoring activities conducted within a demarcated area for *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 list). The identity of *B. zonata* was confirmed by PCR in November 2024. It is not clear where the pest came from. No host plants are grown in the area. Phytosanitary measures are applied according with the eradication measures for *B. dorsalis,* including mass trapping, host removal, increased surveys and a campaign to raise awareness for the public.
A similar incursion occurred in Milano (Lombardia region) in 2023: 1 adult was caught in August 2023 near the Milan Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Market. Further surveys in 2024 did not detect the pest.
The pest status of *Bactrocera zonata* in Italy is officially declared as: **Transient, single adult males caught in traps, actionable, under eradication.**

- *Bactrocera correcta* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EU A1 Quarantine pest as *Bactrocera* spp.)

In July 2024, one adult of *B. correcta* was caught in a trap in the municipality of San Gennaro Vesuviano (province of Napoli, Campania region) within a demarcated area for *Bactrocera dorsalis*. The identity of the pest was confirmed by molecular tests. No further specimens were trapped in the following months.
The pest status of *Bactrocera correcta* in Italy is officially declared as: **Absent, isolated finding in a trap.**

Source: NPPO of Italy (2024-08, 2024-11).

Pictures *Bactrocera zonata*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUZO/photos
Bactrocera correcta. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/BCTRCO/photos

Additional key words: incursion **Computer codes:** BCTRCO, DACUZO, IT

2025/063 Interceptions of *Scirtothrips aurantii* and *S. dorsalis* from African countries

In the last four years *S. dorsalis* and *S. aurantii* have been intercepted at import in the EU, in consignments originating from countries where these species have not been reported from scientific or official sources.
In these countries, the presence of thrips on those plants is known, but identification of thrips at species level needs specific expertise which may not be available. As the species intercepted at import has been confirmed by morphological or molecular tests in EU countries, in the cases when several interceptions have occurred from some countries, the EPPO Secretariat considers that the presence in those countries is likely.
It may be noted that the presence of an emerging issue with thrips on citrus has been reported in Morocco in recent years (Aboutoufail & Boutaleb, 2020; Boualam *et al.*, 2024), but no identification at species level is available.

Table 1: Interceptions of *Scirtothrips* spp. from countries where the EPPO Secretariat had no previous record of presence (the date corresponds to the date of the EU report)

Country of origin	Consignment	Pest	Date	Nb
Morocco	*Fragaria* x *ananassa*	*Scirtothrips aurantii*	2023-03	2
Egypt	*Solanum aethiopicum*	*Scirtothrips*	2022-10	1
Egypt	*Solanum melongena*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2021-11	2
Egypt	*Solanum aethiopicum*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2022-11	2
Egypt	*Solanum melongena*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2022-11	1
Egypt	*Solanum aethiopicum*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2022-12	1
Ghana	*Ficus*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2024-11	1
Ghana	*Scindapsus*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2024-11	1
Ghana	*Caryota*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2024-12	1
Ghana	*Ficus*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2024-12	1
Ghana	*Scindapsus*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2024-12	1
Rwanda	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2022-05	1
Senegal	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2025-01	1
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips*	2022-04	1
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2022-02	2
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2022-04	
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2023-02	1
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2023-03	1
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2023-05	1

Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2024-01	1
Tanzania	*Momordica charantia*	*Scirtothrips dorsalis*	2025-02	1

Source: EU Interceptions of harmful organisms in imported plants and other objects https://food.ec.europa.eu/plants/plant-health-and-biosecurity/europhyt/interceptions_en (accessed in 2025-03).

Aboutoufail A, Boutaleb Joutei (2020) Le Scirtothrips des agrumes, quelle stratégie de lutte efficace et respectueuse de l'environnement. Agriculture du Maghreb 128, 65-67. https://www.agri-mag.com/2020/07/08/le-scirtothrips-des-agrumes-quelle-strategie-de-lutte-efficace-et-respectueuse-de-lenvironnement/

Boualam Y, El Jarroudi M, Eickermann M, Sbaghi M, Lahlali R, Tychon B, Khfif K (2024) Investigating population dynamics and evaluating damage incurred by Thripidae (Thysanoptera) species in citrus orchards of Northeastern Morocco: an exemplary analysis in Berkane. *Archives of Phytopathology and Plant Protection* **57**(9), 631-653.

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

Additional key words: interception, new record **Computer codes:** SCITDO, SCITAU, TZ, GH, EG, SN, MA, RW

2025/064 Update on the situation of *Aromia bungii* in Germany

The red neck longhorned beetle *Aromia bungii* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae – EPPO A2 list) was first found in Germany in July 2011 in a private garden in Rosenheim in southern Bayern (EPPO RS 2012/090), and again in 2016 in a nearby area in Rosenheim. Official measures have been applied since then with a few specimens found in 2019-2022 (RS 2017/056, RS 2020/192, RS 2023/110)).

In July 2023, one beetle was found in a bucket of water in a private garden and another in a pheromone trap within the buffer zone (only 60 m away from the infested zone). However no infested trees were found. From August 2023 until March 2024, eight trees have been felled within the demarcated area with larvae found in four of them, and five beetles caught in pheromones traps. One infested tree was found outside the infested area, resulting in the infested zone being extended by 3 ha. In 2024, three infested trees were detected, including one in the buffer zone. As of January 2025, 189 plants were found to be infested since the outbreak begun in 2011, the infested zone covers 213 ha and the total demarcated area 11900 ha. Official measures are applied including felling of infested and suspicious trees, public awareness raising in affected areas and official surveys. The duration of official measures was extended to 31 December 2028.

The pest status of *Aromia bungii* in Germany is officially declared as: **Present at one location, under containment, in case eradication is impossible.**

Source: NPPO of Germany (2024-06, 2025-01).

A map of the regulated area, valid on 2024-12-10, is available at: https://www.lfl.bayern.de/ips/pflanzengesundheit/174156/index.php

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1503 of 8 October 2018 establishing measures to prevent the introduction into and the spread within the Union of Aromia bungii (Faldermann) http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2018/1503/oj

Pictures *Aromia bungii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AROMBU/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** AROMBU, DE

2025/065 Update on the situation of *Saperda candida* in Germany

In Germany, *Saperda candida* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae – EPPO A1 list) was first detected on the Island of Fehmarn (Schleswig-Holstein) in 2008 (EPPO RS 2008/139). Since then, new outbreaks have been identified, seven infested areas defined, and a monitoring programme and eradication measures have been applied (EPPO RS 2021/036; EPPO RS 2023/111).

In April 2023, two further infested areas were established following the finding of exit holes in a *Crataegus* hedge, and one larva in *Crataegus* plant, and the demarcated area expanded accordingly. Eradication measures were applied: all host plants of *S. candida* within a 200 m radius of the infestation site were felled, chipped and burned. Roots of host plants were dug out and incinerated.

During surveys conducted in 2024, exit holes and 8 larvae identified as *S. candida* were found in a *Crataegus* hedge in August and September. This resulted in the establishment of 2 new overlapping infested areas (located between two existing infested areas) which include trees next to a road, private gardens and a campsite. While felling the infested hedge and trees on the roadside 46 larvae were found in December 2024. Eradication measures in private gardens and the campsite begun in February 2025.

Surveys across the demarcated area continue. Since 2023, this includes the use of sniffer dogs and visual inspection weekly throughout the year, according to the biology of *S. candida*.

The pest status of *Saperda candida* in Germany is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the member state concerned (one location), under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Germany (2025-02).

Pictures *Saperda candida*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SAPECN/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** SAPECN, DE

2025/066 First report of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Colombia

Xylella fastidiosa (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Colombia. It has been detected in eight Colombian departments, leading the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) to declare a phytosanitary emergency.

Official surveys have been conducted in Colombia since 2019-2022 without any detection of the bacterium. At the beginning of 2024, surveillance was intensified in 30 departments of the country and 928 plant samples from different host species were analyzed according to EPPO Diagnostic Protocol PM 7/024.

Fourteen samples collected in 2024 tested positive. They came from eight departments: Boyacá, Caldas, Caquetá, La Guajira, Magdalena, Norte de Santander, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca. Two positive samples were from coffee plants (*Coffea arabica*) from Boyacá and La Guajira, and the other twelve were from citrus plants (*Citrus reticulata, C. x aurantium var. sinensis, Citrus x latifolia, Citrus x tangelo):* two in Caldas, one in Caquetá, one in La Guajira, one in Magdalena, four in Norte de Santander, two in Risaralda and one in Valle del Cauca.

No information on the subspecies present in Colombia is currently available.

Strict phytosanitary measures are applied and include the destruction of the infected plants, the delimitation of regulated areas, restriction of host plant movements.

The situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Colombia can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed, under official control**.

Source: ICA (2025-03) https://www.ica.gov.co/noticias/comunicado-presencia-bacteria-xylella-fastidiosa

ICA (2025-03) Xylella fastidiosa https://www.ica.gov.co/areas/agricola/direccion-tecnica-de-epidemiologia-y-vigilancia-fi/xylella-fastidiosa

Pictures *Xylella fastidiosa*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLEFA/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** XYLEFA, CO

2025/067 First report of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Iraq

During spring of 2022, leaf scorch symptoms were observed in oleander plants (*Nerium oleander)* in Erbil city (Kurdistan Region, northern Iraq). Leaf samples were collected from symptomatic plants and the identity of the causal agent was determined as being *Xylella fastidiosa* by isolation, PCR followed by partial sequencing of the 16S rRNA gene.
The EPPO Secretariat had no previous record of *Xylella fastidiosa** in Iraq.

The vector *Philaenus spumarius* (Hemiptera: Aphrophoridae) has been reported in the Erbil region.

* Note of the EPPO Secretariat: the authors conclude in their article that the subspecies present is *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *sandyi*. However the sequence analysis of 16S rRNA genes is not reliable to determine the subspecies. *Nerium oleander* is a host of other subspecies of *Xylella fastidiosa*.

Source: Ahmed MZ, Mohamed RY (2023). Isolation and identification of *Xylella fastidiosa* that cause oleander leaf scorch. *Rafidain Journal of Science* **32**(1), 102-109.

Gnezdilov VM, Schmidt C (2024) Auchenorrhyncha (Hemiptera) of Iraq: checklist and new records. *Proceedings of the Zoological Institute RAS* **328**(3), 408-428.

Pictures *Xylella fastidiosa*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLEFA/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** XYLEFA, XYLEFS, PHILSU, IQ

2025/068 First report of *Ralstonia syzygii* subsp. *syzygii* in Brazil on eucalyptus

Ralstonia syzygii subsp. *syzygii* was isolated from wilted *Eucalyptus urophylla* in a commercial nursery in Brazil. Koch's postulates were confirmed. This is the first record of this pest species (and subspecies) on eucalyptus, and the first record of this pest species (and subspecies) in South America.
Until this publication *Ralstonia syzygii* subsp. *syzygii* was only known to occur in Indonesia and its only natural host was clove *(Syzygium aromaticum)*. This report extends its geographical distribution and host range. *Ralstonia syzygii* is listed on the EPPO A1 List. In some EPPO countries, such as the EU countries, only the two subspecies, *Ralstonia syzygii* subsp. *celebesen*sis and *Ralstonia syzygii* subsp. *indonesiensis*, are listed as quarantine pests.

Source: Rezende RR, Morgan T, Quintero FO, Santos CC, Oliveira LS, Mafia RG, Rezende GD, Alfenas-Zerbini P (2025) First report of *Ralstonia syzygii* causing bacteria wilt on eucalyptus in Brazil. *Plant Disease* (early view). https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-10-24-2229-PDN.

Additional key words: new record, new host **Computer codes:** RALSSY, RALSSS, RALSSO, BR

2025/069 First report of *Fusarium circinatum* in Pakistan

In Asia, *Fusarium circinatum* (EPPO A2 List), the causal agent of pitch canker of pine had only been reported from the north-eastern part of the continent (Japan and South Korea). It was recently reported from South Asia, in Pakistan.

In spring 2023, symptoms of a serious disease were observed on mature blue pines (*Pinus wallichiana)* forests in Kumrat Valley, Pakistan. Symptomatic trees were brown and wilted, with cankers on the trunk. Surveys were conducted in July 2023 to identify the causal agent. Morphological tests identified the pathogen as *Fusarium circinatum*. Pathogenicity was confirmed by tests on seedlings of *P. wallichiana* and *P. roxburghii*.
This is the first report of *F. circinatum* on *P. wallichiana* and *P. roxburghii*.

Source: Baloch M and ZS Sanam (2025) First report of *Fusarium circinatum* associated with declining *Pinus wallichiana* forests in Kumrat Valley, Dir Kohistan Division. *Pakistan Journal of Forestry* 74, 2, 85-91. https://dx.doi.org/10.17582/journal.PJF/2024/74.2.85.91

Pictures *Fusarium circinatum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GIBBCI/photos

Additional key words: new record, new host **Computer codes:** GIBBCI, PK

2025/070 First report of *Cryphonectria carpinicola* in France

The NPPO of France recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *Cryphonectria carpinicola* (EPPO Alert List) on its territory.
In June 2021 and later in June 2024, *C. carpinicola* was detected in two forest stands located in north-eastern France (Bourgogne- Franche-Comté region). The fungus was isolated from branches and trunks of *Carpinus betulus* trees. The identification of the fungus in pure culture was confirmed by the French reference laboratory (Anses LSV, Unité de Mycologie) by morphological identification. In both locations, the pathogen was found in drought-stressed hornbeam stands, confirming it behaves rather as a weak pathogen and does not appear to be a primary pathogen. Both infested stands had 5 to 10% dead or severely declining (i.e. trees with more than 50% of dead branches) hornbeam trees.

The pest status of *Cryphonectria carpinicola* in France is officially declared as: **Present, in specific parts of the country, at low prevalence**.

Source: NPPO of France (2025-03).

Pictures *Cryphonectria carpinicola*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CRYNCA/photos

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

2025/071 Update on the situation of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in Tunisia

Phyllosticta citricarpa (citrus black spot - EPPO A1 List) was first confirmed in Tunisia in 2019 in the Governorate of Nabeul (municipalities of Beni Khalled, Bou Argoub and Menzel Bouzelfa) (EPPO RS 2019/141). Surveys conducted in 2021 further detected the pathogen in three additional municipalities in the Governorate of Nabeul (Soliman, Grombalia, Dar Chaben El Fehri) as well as in the municipality of Chott Mariem in the Governorate of Sousse (RS 2024/090). In surveys conducted by Ioos et al. between 2021 and 2023, in 10 municipalities of Nabeul and Sousse gouvernorates, infested citrus orchards were detected in 6 municipalities of Nabeul (Bou Argoub, Dar Chaben El Fehri, Grombalia, Menzel Bouzelfa, Nabeul, and Hammamet) and 1 in Sousse (Akouda).
The NPPO of Tunisia recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that official eradication measures had been applied for the last 5 years in all infested orchards. This lead to a drastic decrease in the incidence of the disease. During the production season 2024-2025, only 10 orchards were found to be infested, all located in the Governorate of Nabeul (municipalities of Bou Argoub and Grombalia). All the other zones of production are declared as pest free since 2022.

The pest status *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in Tunisia is officially declared as: **Present, only in some areas (Governorate of Nabeul), under official control.**

Source: Ioos R, Mannai S, Jeandel C, Benfradj N, Vicent A, Boughalleb-M'hamdi N, Aguayo J (2024) Mating type and microsatellite genotyping indicate that the Tunisian population of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* is clonal and thrives only asexually. *Fungal biology* **128**(3), 1806-13.

NPPO of Tunisia (2025-02).

Pictures *Phyllosticta citricarpa*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GUIGCI/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** GUIGCI, TN

2025/072 First report of '*Candidatus* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' on onion in Germany

In January 2024, rotting symptoms were observed on onions (*Allium cepa),* that were harvested in a healthy state in September 2023 in Hessen, south-west Germany. The onions had been harvested from a field located in a region severely affected by 'syndrome des basses richesses' (formerly EPPO Alert List). 'Syndrome des basses richesses' is a disease of sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*) mainly associated with a γ-proteobacterium '*Ca.* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' transmitted by the polyphagous planthopper *Pentastiridius leporinus* (Hemiptera: Cixiidae), which is abundant in the region where the onions were grown. Molecular testing confirmed the presence of '*Ca.* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' in symptomatic material. This suggests that onion could be a host of '*Ca.* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus', however more tests are needed to confirm the host status of *A. cepa*. It may be noted that potato had recently been recorded as a new host of this bacteria in Germany (EPPO RS 2023/029).

Source: Therhaag E, Ulrich R, Gross J and Schneider B (2024) Onion (*Allium cepa*) as a new host for '*Candidatus* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' in Germany. *Plant Disease* **108** (9), 2914. https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-03-24-0526-PDN

Additional key words: new host, detailed record **Computer codes:** ARSEPH, DE

2025/073 First report of '*Candidatus* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' on potato in Switzerland

In Switzerland, '*Candidatus* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' (formerly EPPO Alert List) was first reported in on sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*) in 2017 in the western part of the country. Annual surveys conducted in 2023 and 2024 also detected it in eastern Switzerland.
In July 2023, potato plants (*Solanum tuberosum*) infested with *Pentastiridius leporinus* (Hemiptera: Cixiidae) showing leaf and stem desiccation and rubbery tubers were observed in fields in the cantons of Bern, Fribourg and Vaud in western Switzerland. These fields were located in areas experiencing outbreaks of 'Syndrome des basses richesses' on sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*). Molecular tests confirmed the presence of '*Ca.* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' in diseased tubers and in *P. leporinus*. The authors caution that the reported symptoms may appear more severe due to a drought earlier in 2023 which affected the general health status of potato crops.
In certain potato varieties, the infection of tubers by '*Ca.* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' seems to induce the browning of the flesh upon frying, raising strong concerns for varieties marketed for chip production.

Source: Mahillon M, Bussereau F, Dubuis N, Brodard J, Debonneville C, Schumpp O (2025) First detection of *Arsenophonus* in potato crop in Switzerland: a threat for the processing industry?. *Potato Research* (early view). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11540-024-09840-y

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

2025/074 First report of '*Candidatus* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' in Central Europe

A survey was conducted in October-November 2023 on diseases of sugar beet (*Beta vulgaris*) caused by '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma solani' (EPPO A2 List) and '*Candidatus* Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus', which are associated respectively with rubbery taproot disease and syndrome basses richesses of sugar beet in Central Europe.
'*Ca*. Phytoplasma solani' is the most prevalent pathogen. It was detected in all countries surveyed (Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia).
'*Ca*. Arsenophonus phytopathogenicus' was reported for the first time in Austria, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, and Slovakia, and its presence in Hungary is confirmed. It is considered only sporadic in Serbia (two samples), the Czech Republic (two samples) and Romania (one sample).

Source: Duduk B, Stepanović J, Fránová J, Zwolińska A, Rekanović E, Stepanović M, Vučković N, Duduk N, Vico I (2024) Geographical variations, prevalence, and molecular dynamics of fastidious phloem-limited pathogens infecting sugar beet across Central Europe. *PLoS ONE* 19(7): e0306136. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0306136

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** ARSEPH, PHYPSO, AT, CZ, HU, PL, RS, RO, SK

2025/075 New outbreak of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* in Bulgaria

The NPPO of Bulgaria recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of an outbreak of the root knot nematode *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* (EPPO A2 List) on its territory for the first time since its eradication in 2003 (EPPO RS 2004/077).

A hobby farmer contacted the NPPO because of his farm-saved seed potatoes(*Solanum tuberosum*), rotted during storage. The farmer has been using the same self-grown seed potatoes annually for at least six years. The NPPO of Bulgaria confirmed the presence of *M. chitwoodi* in the potatoes by laboratory analysis in February 2024. The infested potatoes (about 300 kg) had been grown in an 800 m^2 non-irrigated field in the village of Dušanci (Pirdop municipality, Sofia province, Western Bulgaria). No other potatoes or similar crops grown in the area were found to be infested by the pest. The source of the infestation is unknown. Official phytosanitary measures have been taken, including prohibition of moving of the infected batch.

The pest status of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* in Bulgaria is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Bulgaria (2025-03)

Pictures *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MELGCH/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** MELGCH, BG

2025/076 First report of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in Armenia

The pinewood nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Armenia. In the EPPO region, it has so far been recorded only in Spain and Portugal where it is under official control.
In 2022-2023, a survey was conducted in coniferous plantations in 5 regions of the Republic of Armenia (Kotayk, Gagharkunik, Tavush, Lori, Aragatsotn) where symptoms of pine wilt had been observed. Investigations were carried out in plantations of Scots pine (*Pinus*

sylvestris) and Crimean pine (*Pinus nigra* subsp. *pallasiana*). In total wood samples from 125 trees were collected in 14 locations and analyzed by morphological and molecular tests.
B. xylophilus was detected in samples collected in a pine forest near the village of Hankavan (Kotayk province) in 2022 and in 2023. Over the 2 years, six specimens were identified (3 males and 3 females) from *Pinus sylvestris*.
The authors note that the climate in this part of Armenia is dry continental, which could allow the survival of the pest, but is unlikely to lead to major outbreaks of pine wilt disease. The only *Monochamus* species present in the country is *Monochamus galloprovincialis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) which is considered as an invasive species only present in limited parts of the country, and not in the region of Hankavan. The authors note that other beetle species were recorded near Hankavan and could serve as vectors of the nematode (species in the genera *Acanthocinus, Spondylis, Arhopalus, Asemum*).
The authors recommend that phytosanitary measures are taken to avoid any further spread of the pest, and that further surveys are conducted to assess the distribution of *B. xylophilus* and its vectors in Armenia.

The situation of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus in Armenia* can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed.**

Source: Arbuzova EN, Karagyan GH, Kozyreva NI, Shchukovskaya AG, Ghrejyan TL, Kalashian MY, Akopyan KV (2025) First finding of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in pine plantations of the Republic of Armenia. *Journal of Nematology* **57**(1), 20250004.

Pictures *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/BURSXY/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** BURSXY, AM

2025/077 Update on the situation of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in Spain

The pine wood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (EPPO A2 List) was first reported in Spain in 2008 (EPPO RS 2010/051). Since then, several isolated findings and outbreaks have been reported across Spain, a monitoring programme and eradication measures have been taken in all instances (EPPO RS 2010/058; EPPO RS 2010/202; EPPO RS 2012/047; EPPO RS 2014/020; EPPO RS 2018/140). Since 2008, there have been ten reports of infestations in three Spanish provinces; four outbreaks are now active in Galicia (As Neves and Lobios), Castilla y Leon (Lagunilla) and Extremadura (Sierra de la Malvana). A recent update is provided bellow:

- **Galicia**

In Galicia, *B. xylophilus* was first detected in As Neves (Province of Pontevedra) in November 2010. A demarcated area was established and intensive surveys and eradication measures have been applied since (EPPO RS 2010/202). In 2024 over 150 infected *Pinus pinaster* and *P. sylvestris* trees as well as 168 infected *Monochamus galloprovincialis* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae - vector of *B. xylophilus*), were detected in the demarcated area. In February 2025, the Government of Galicia considered that eradication of the pest in this area is now longer possible. The demarcated area was redefined considering the recent findings (with an infested zone and a buffer zone of 20 km radius) and designated as a 'containment area' where containment measures now apply.

In September 2024, a new outbreak of *B. xylophilus* was reported in Parque Natural Baixa Limia-Xurés, in the municipality of Lobios (Province of Ourense). During official annual surveys 4 symptomatic *P. pinaster* trees were found and the identity of *B. xylophilus* was confirmed by molecular testing. *B. xylophilus* is believed to have come from Portugal via

natural spread. It is noted the vector *M. galloprovincialis* is present in the area. Eradication measures have been taken, including the establishment of a demarcated area.

- **Castilla y León**

In Castilla y León, an isolated finding of *B. xylophilus* was first reported in Languilla (Province of Salamanca) in 2018 (EPPO RS 2018/140). Since then, there have been several detections of infested trees within the demarcated area, including a *P. radiata* tree in 2021, a *P. pinaster* tree in 2023, and 15 *Pinus pinaster* and one *Pinus sylvestris* tree in 2024. The vector *M. galloprovincialis* was also reported in the area. Eradication measures are taken.

- **Extremadura**

In Extremadura, *B. xylophilus* was first reported in the province of Cáceres in 2010 (RS 2010/051), and eradicated. It was detected again in 2019 in a pine tree (*P. pinaster*) located in Sierra de la Malvana (municipality of Valverde del Fresno, province of Cáceres), less than 500 m from the border with Portugal. A demarcated area was established that extends in the Salamanca province in Castilla y León. In January 2023, another *P. pinaster* was found to be infested within the demarcated area. This did not change the size of the demarcated area. Eradication measures are taken.

The pest status of *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* in Spain is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Spain (2025-02, 2024-10).

Pictures *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/BURSXY/photos

Additional key words: detailed record, eradication, containment

Computer codes: BURSXY, MONCGA, ES

2025/078 Pre-emptive and proactive biological control for invasive alien plants

Pre-emptive biological control has been considered for plant pests (see for example EPPO RS 2024/251 and RS 2025/021) where potential biological control agents can be identified in advance of the pest arriving. This method may also be suitable for invasive alien plants where, through horizon scanning, invasive plants can be identified and prioritised based on their potential for negative impacts. Surveys in the targets area of origin can identify biological control agents before the invasive plant has an extensive range expansion in its introduced range and initial host range testing of potential biological control agents can provide an indication of their potential host range. Proactive biological control scenarios, in comparison, include situations where the invasive plant species is already present in the area of concern but is not having a significant impact. Potentially, the invasive plant may be in a lag-phase in the area under consideration but has demonstrated negative impacts in other regions with similar ecological characteristics. Applying biological control at this stage may be beneficial to mitigate future damage. Developing and implementing biological control research at an early stage, before significant impacts occur, can act to preserve ecosystem services and biological diversity.

Source: Smith MC, Canavan K, Minteer CR, Lieurance D (2025) Preemptive and proactive application of biological control for weeds: An argument for swifter action to aid conservation efforts. *Biological Control* **202**, 105725 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocontrol.2025.105725

Additional key words: biocontrol, invasive alien plant

2025/079 Utilization of biological control against regulated pests in the EPPO region

Experts from the Joint EPPO/IOBC Panel on Biological Control Agents, and the EPPO Secretariat have produced an assessment on the current use of classical and augmentative biological control to manage regulated plant pests. The paper discusses challenges for the uptake of biological control for regulated pests and provides recommendations to increase the safe use of biological control agents in the EPPO region. The proven safety record of both augmentative and classical biological control technologies allows their utilization against indigenous and non-indigenous but well-established pests, whether under protected conditions (e.g., glasshouses) or in open field cropping systems. Considering the following recommendations can promote and strengthen the utilisation of biological control in the EPPO region. (1) Information dissemination: consider the information requirements of different stakeholders and tailor key communication messages; (2) Awareness raising: is important to inform stakeholders on the benefits and safety of BCAs; (3) Regional cooperation: is essential for a joined-up approach to the management of regulated pests; (4) Regional guidance: EPPO PM 6 Standards provide a harmonized approach to the safe use of biological control; (5) Pre-emptive biological control: can provide a level of preparedness against priority regulated pests; (6) Contingency planning: integrating biological control techniques in contingency planning can ensure its consideration for emergency measures; (7) Integrated Pest Management (IPM) biological control techniques can be incorporated when relevant into IPM strategies.

Source: Tanner R, Blumel S, Kapranas A, Kenis M, Matosevic D, Horn N (2025) The utilization of biological control against regulated pests in the EPPO region: challenges and opportunities. *EPPO Bulletin* (early view), https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.13072

Additional key words: biocontrol

2025/080 Biological control in the context of Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategy that combines different management methods to control pests and is widely practiced in the EPPO region. Chemical control methods using synthetic plant protection products are an important part of IPM, though there is the desire, both from regulators and the public to reduce the levels of chemicals used in agricultural systems. Biological control, by using beneficial insects, fungi, bacteria, and plant-based substances, can help reduce the need for synthetic chemicals. However, some barriers prevent farmers from fully adopting biocontrol, such as costs, the lack of clear regulations, limited availability of effective products, and doubts about its reliability. For example, in EU Member States, currently only 15 % of all crop/pest combinations have a biological control agent approved. Further research is needed to increase the number of available biological control agents. In addition, sustainable pest management can include an area wide management approach, promoting interconnectivity of agricultural and natural systems and the utilization of existing food webs. If these and other aspects are addressed, biocontrol could become an integral component in IPM by reducing the use of chemical plant protection products. The current publication provides a useful review of methods and strategies for biological control in an IPM framework.

Source: Galli M, Feldmann F, Vogler UK, Kogel KH (2024) Can biocontrol be the game changer in integrated pest management? A review of definitions, methods and strategies. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection* **131**, 265-291. https://doi.org/10.1007/s41348-024-00878-1

Additional key words: biocontrol

2025/081 *Sasa palmata* in the EPPO region: addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why
Sasa palmata (Poaceae) is recorded as an established species in the EPPO region where it can form dense stands. In 2025, the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants prioritised a list of bamboo species and *S. palmata* was identified as a priority for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). However, the Panel noted there is little information on its impact in the EPPO region and therefore the species should be added to the Alert List, with the aim to collect further information on established populations and evidence of impact.

Geographical distribution
EPPO region: Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Russian Federation (native in Kuril and Sakhalin Islands), United Kingdom
Asia (native): Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Republic of Korea
North America: USA (Tennessee)
Oceania: New Zealand.

Morphology
Rhizomes elongated. Culms erect and 150-300 cm in height; 7-10 mm diameter. Lateral branches suffrutescent. Leaf-sheaths glabrous on surface. Leaf-blades oblong; 18-30 cm long; 50-80 mm wide.

Biology and Ecology
Sasa palmata is a running bamboo with leptomorph rhizomes. It is a long-lived perennial bamboo species. Seed is rarely produced.

Habitats
S. palmata tolerate partial shaded conditions. It grows in well-drained moist soils. It is found in ruderal habitats, damp woodlands and riparian habitats.

Pathways for movement
Plants for planting: *S. palmata* is traded as a garden ornamental plant and it is popular in gardens and parks. There is the potential that rhizomes can be discarded as garden waste. Natural spread is from the spread of rhizomes. If growing near rivers, rhizomes can be incorporated into the water body and spread downstream.

Impacts
S. palmata can form dense monocultures in the natural environment which can act to outcompete and displace native plant species. Although the impacts are likely to be local, it can prevent the regeneration of native species.

Control
Bamboos can be difficult to control due to their extensive underground rhizomes. Chemical herbicides can be used but these must be applied carefully in natural habitats. Rhizomes can be excavated from the ground but this is labour intensive and even small fragments remaining can regenerate into viable plants.

Source: Brundu G, Follak S, Pergl J, Chapman D, Branquart E, Buholzer S, Fløistad IS, Fried G, Herbst M, Marchante E, van Valkenburg J, Tanner R (2025) Risk prioritization of bamboo species in the EPPO region. *EPPO Bulletin*, 00, 1-15 https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.13073

Fujimura Y, Takada M, Fujita H, Inoue T (2017): Change in distribution of the vascular plant *Sasa palmata* in Sarobetsu Mire between 1977 and 2003. Landscape and Ecological Engineering 9,305–309.

Invasive Species of Northern Ireland (2024): *Sasa palmata* & *Pseudosasa japonica* – overview. https://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/species-accounts/established/terrestrial/bamboo (accessed 22February 2024)

SLU Artdatabanken (2024). Artfakta: *Sasa palmata*. https://artfakta.se/taxa/sasa-palmata-265206 [2024-07-10]

Taylor B, Glaister J, Wade M (2021) Invasive bamboos. Their impact and management in Great Britain and Ireland. Packard Publishing Limited, Chichester, GB.

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

2025/082 Potential range expansion of *Senecio inaequidens* in Sardinia (IT)

Senecio inaequidens (Asteraceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) is a perennial species native to South Africa. It is widespread in the EPPO region. In Italy, the species is currently distributed across all regions (including Sardinia and Sicilia), where it is predominantly considered invasive. *S. inaequidens* was originally reported in Sardinia in 1990 on Mount Limbara (1359 m asl.). It has since spread along roads and in fallow land, dry pastures and clearcut woodland, and more natural habitats such as scrubland. There is the potential for further expansion of the species on the island. Data on the distribution of *S. inaequidens* in Sardinia has been collected since 1991 and this data was combined with the global distribution data to model the potential current and future distribution of the species. The results suggest that under the current climate, *S. inaequidens* has the potential for range expansion to coastal regions in the west and south-west of Sardinia. In addition, small islands off the coast of Sardina are also climatically suitable for the species. This contrasts with the current higher altitudinal range of the species. When factoring in climate change scenarios, the potential distribution of *S. inaequidens* doubles compared to its current distribution and if taking into account the worst case climate change scenario, the increase in suitable habitat is 83 % by 2040. The potential spread of *S. inaequidens* to new habitats, including coastal areas should be carefully monitored. Control and eradication measures targeting the expanding populations should be implemented.

Source: Bazzato E, Calvia G, Marignani M, Ruggero A, Lozano V (2024) *Senecio inaequidens* DC. will thrive in future climate: A case study in a Mediterranean biodiversity hotspot. *Ecological Informatics* **82**, 102783. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2024.102783

Pictures *Senecio inaequidens:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SENIQ/photos

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant, detailed record **Computer codes:** SENIQ, IT

2025/083 First report of *Asclepias speciosa* in Greece

Asclepias speciosa (Apocynaceae) is native to North America and has been reported from Lithuania (EPPO RS 2019/109) and for the first time recently in Greece. There is the potential for misidentification with the congener *A. syriaca* (EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants and species of (EU) Union concern) as both species share several morphological traits. In 2022, a population of *A. speciosa* was identified near Kapnofyto, Serres province

(Northern Greece). This population was subsequently studied for two years. In 2022, a total of 20 flowering plants were recorded covering an area of approximately 2.5 m x 1 m. In 2024, 50 individuals were recorded varying in height from 50 cm to 123 cm. The population was found along the roadside on disturbed ground. The difference in climates between the two observed populations in Europe (Lithuania and Greece), suggests that *A. speciosa* can withstand and adapt to a wide climatic range. In Lithuania, only vegetative reproduction has been observed though in Greece, wind dispersed seed is produced which can germinate at temperatures ranging from 15 to 20 °C. At present, negative impacts have not been recorded for *A. speciosa* in the EPPO region. However, due to the potential for misidentification with *A. syriaca*, which has known impacts on local biodiversity, some impacts attributed to *A. syriaca* may potentially be from *A. speciosa*.

Source: Gudžinskas Z, Petrulaitis L, Žalneravičius E (2019) *Asclepias speciosa* (Apocynaceae, Asclepiadoideae): a rare or unrecognized alien species in Europe? *PhytoKeys* **121**: 29–41.

Krigas N, Dijon C, Samartza I, Avtzis DN, Anestis I, Pipinis E, Gudžinskas Z (2025) Forewarned is forearmed: documentation on the invasion risk of *Asclepias speciosa* in Greece and Europe. *Agriculture* **15**(3), 324. ttps://doi.org/10.3390/agriculture15030324

Tan K, Pachomia S (2024) A first report of *Asclepias speciosa* (Asclepiadaceae) for Greece and the Balkan Peninsula. *Phytologia Balcanica*, 30, 183–188.

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant, new record **Computer codes:** ASCSP, GR

2025/084 Using satellite imagery to assess *Ailanthus altissima* in Sardinia (IT)

Ailanthus altissima (Simaroubaceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants, List of (EU) Union concern) is native to Asia. It is a widespread species in the EPPO region where it can invade a variety of habitats including managed and unmanaged grasslands, forests, river/canal banks, rail/roadsides, wastelands, and urban areas. Remote sensing techniques have previously been used to detect and monitor populations of *A. altissima* in Mediterranean areas though its use to assess the eco-physiological traits of invaded vegetation is poorly researched. A study was conducted in Italy (Sardinia) and georeferenced occurrence of *A. altissima* were collected. Monthly satellite optical imagery at high spatial resolution were used to compare areas invaded by *A. altissima* to that of native vegetation. This imagery also captures the near-infrared and short-wave infrared sections of the electromagnetic spectrum which can be used to estimate eco-physiological traits of the vegetation, such as productivity and canopy biomass, photosynthetic activity, leaf water content and soil features, such as bare ground and organic content. The study showed that the differences between invaded and non-invaded vegetation were more pronounced in the summer indicating that *A. altissima* performs well under drought conditions. In invaded areas there was higher productivity, canopy biomass, leaf water content, and bare soil cover was lower. The study shows that remote sensing techniques can be used to study invasive alien plants.

Source: Marzialetti F, Lozano V, Große-Stoltenberg A, Carranza ML, Innangi M, La Bella G, Bagella S, Rivieccio G, Bacchetta G, Podda L, Brundu G (2024) Assessing eco-physiological patterns of *Ailanthus altissima* (Mill.) Swingle and differences with native vegetation using Copernicus satellite data on a Mediterranean Island, *Ecological Informatics*, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoinf.2025.103080

Pictures *Ailanthus altissima*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AILAL/photos

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant **Computer codes:** AILAL, IT

2025/085 Efficacy of herbicides for the control of *Ambrosia grayi*

Ambrosia grayi (Asteraceae: EPPO Alert List) is native to North America (Mexico and the USA) and is a invasive alien species in Israel where it is under eradication. Various herbicides were tested to develop practical solutions for controlling *A. grayi*. Testing was conducted on two growth phases, young plants with 4-6 leaves and mature plants with 12-15 leaves. The treatment included the active substances Fluroxypyr + Saflufenacil + surfactant; Fluroxypyr + Glufosinate; Fluroxypyr + Glyphosate; Glufosinate + Glyphosate + Saflufenacil + surfactant. In general, all herbicides showed a high level of efficacy for the control of *A. grayi*. When the herbicides containing Glufosinate were applied to young plants, they caused severe damage, resulting in no survival or no regeneration at this growth stage. However, mature plants did show some development of the bud. Survival rates (21 days post-herbicide application) and regeneration capacity of rhizomes (42 days post-herbicide application) were assessed and survival was the lowest for young plants. Mature plants showed a survival rate of 33 to 56 %. There was no rhizome regrowth for both young and mature plants, except for mature plants (11 %) when treated with Fluroxypyr + Saflufenacil+ surfactant.

Source: Neta D, Abu-Nassar J, Cafri D, Ezra N, David I, Shtein I, Goldway M, Eizenberg H, Matzrafi M (2024) *Ambrosia grayi* as a new alien casual species in Israel: plant biology and chemical management. *Pest Management Science*, DOI 10.1002/ps.8048

Pictures *Ambrosia grayi*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AMBGR/photos

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant, detailed record, control

Computer codes: AMBGR, IL