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2025/139 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**

The Indian cotton jassid, *Amrasca biguttula* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) is first reported from Egypt in agricultural fields growing cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum*), roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa)*, and okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) located in Kafr El Sheikh governorate (Northern Egypt). This is the first record of this leafhopper in North Africa (El-Hady & El-Hashash, 2025).

Amrasca biguttula (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) is first reported from the island of Martinique (France) in the garden of the Martinique entomologie association in Fort-de-France on cotton plants (*Gossypium hirsutum*) in January 2024. It is considered that it has been established for several years (Dumbardon-Martial & Pierre, 2025).

Apple stem grooving virus (*Capillovirus mali,* ASGV, EU RNQP) is reported for the first time in Azerbaijan. It was detected on symptomatic apple (*Malus domestica*) and pear *(Pyrus communis*) during surveys conducted in 2017-2019 (Mustafayev *et al.*, 2025).

Grapevine yellow speckle viroid 1 (*Apscaviroid alphaflavivitis*- GYSVd-1), grapevine yellow speckle viroid 2 (*Apscaviroid betaflavivitis* - GYSVd-2) and hop stunt viroid (*Hostuviroid impedihumuli*, HSVd – EU RNQP) are first reported from Kazakhstan. They were detected from symptomatic grapevine (*Vitis vinifera)* in the Almaty region in July 2023 and June 2024 (Moisseyev *et al.*, 2025).

Liriomyza sativae (Diptera: Agromyzidae - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Dubai (United Arab Emirates). It was first observed in November 2021 in Dubai city, and again causing damage on pumpkin *(Cucurbita pepo*) and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) in October 2024 in fields in Al Barari (Firouzi, 2025).

Fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae – EPPO A2 List), is reported for the first time in the Fiji Islands. The pest was first detected in April 2025 in Uciwai (Nadi District, Western Division) and later in the surrounding areas of the Nadi District on maize (*Zea mays*). Containment and official response measures have been implemented (IPPC, 2025).
The pest status of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Fiji is officially declared as: **Present: at low prevalence, under official control.**

- **Detailed records**

In China, lettuce chlorosis virus (*Crinivirus lactucachlorosi,* LCV – formerly EPPO Alert List) was first recorded on Chinese cabbage (*Brassica rapa* subsp. *pekinensis*) in Baoding (Hebei Province) in November 2021. This is the first record in the Hebei province, and the first record on cabbage worldwide (Li *et al.*, 2025).

In Germany, outbreaks of the root knot nematode *Meloidogyne fallax* (EPPO A2 List) have occurred in the past (EPPO RS 2011/109) and have been eradicated. The NPPO of Germany

recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that the pest status has been determined in the framework of exports.
The pest status of *Meloidogyne fallax* in Germany is officially declared as: **Present, transient, not widely distributed and under official control.**

In the USA, *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* (EPPO A2 list) is first reported from North Carolina. It was reported to cause wilting of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and aubergine (*Solanum melongena*) in a 1-ha field in July 2023. The origin of the infection is unknown, but the identified phylotype is of Asian origin and had already been detected in Florida and Louisiana (Magar *et al.*, 2025).

In the USA, *Pantoea ananatis* is first reported in Louisiana causing leaf blight in rice (*Oryza sativa*). It was detected in July 2023 by PCR on symptomatic rice in research fields in Rayne city (Bruno *et al.*, 2025).

In Australia tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List) was first reported in August 2024 in South Australia (EPPO RS 2024/172), and in January 2025 in Victoria (RS 2025/086). On 29 May 2025 the Australian state and territory governments, and affected industry agreed that it was not technically feasible to eradicate ToBRFV from Australia. A long-term management strategy on how to manage the impacts of ToBRFV is under development (NPPO of Australia, 2025).

In the USA, watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1(*Coguvirus citrulli*, WCLaV-1 – EPPO Alert List) and watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 2 (*Coguvirus henanense*, WCLaV-2 – EPPO Alert List) are first reported from Arizona. They were detected in 2023 by RT-PCR on watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus)*, in different farms in Yuma County (Murcia Bermudez *et al.*, 2025).

- **New host plants**

In China, *Fusarium nirenbergiae* was identified as the causative agent of potato tuber rot on potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) in indoor storage facilities in October 2022 in Sichuan province. Infected tubers had shrinkage, rot and brown flesh (Li *et al.*, 2025).

Sources: Bruno J, Barphagha I, Ontoy J, Dalla Lana F, Ham JH (2025) First report of *Pantoea ananatis* causing bacterial leaf and panicle blight of rice in Louisiana, USA. *Plant Disease* **109(4),** 932 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-08-24-1731-PDN

Dumbardon-Martial E, Pierre C (2025) The invasive leafhopper *Amrasca biguttula* (Ishida, 1913) in our garden: first report in Martinique (Hemiptera, Cicadellidae). Bulletin de la Société Entomologique de France 130 (2),160-162. doi : 10.32475/bsef_2347

El-Hady RM, El-Hashash AE (2025) A taxonomic study of *Amrasca biguttula* (Ishida, 1913) (Cicadellidae, Typhlocybinae) in Egypt. *Acta Entomology and Zoology* 6(1), 25-29. DOI: 10.33545/27080013.2025.v6.i1a.186

Firouzi E (2025) First recorded discovery of the invasive vegetable leafminer (*Liriomyza sativae*) in Dubai, UAE: implications for agriculture and ecosystem health. *ALL Bioscience **1***(1), 10-26.

IPPC website. Official Pest Reports- Fiji (2025-05-23): fall armyworm (*Spodoptera frugiperda*) incursion into Fiji Islands.
https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/fiji/pestreports/2025/05/fall-armyworm-spodoptera-frugiperda-incursion-into-fiji-islands/

Li L, Wen L, Zhu T, Ren M (2025) First report of *Fusarium nirenbergiae* causing rot of potato in China. *Plant Disease* **109(3),** 721. https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-24-2413-PDN

Li Y, Liang Y, Zhang C (2025) First report of lettuce chlorosis virus infecting Chinese cabbage in China. *Plant Disease* (early view). ttps://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-03-25-0643-PDN

Magar P, Huerta AI, Cellier G, Louws F, Adhikari T (2025) First report of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* phylotype I sequevar 14 causing bacterial wilt on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and eggplant (*Solanum melongena*) in North Carolina, USA. *Plant Disease* **109(5),** 1167 https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-24-2377-PDN

Moisseyev R, Kostyukova VS, Pozharskiy AS, Mendybayeva A, Gritsenko D (2025) First report of grapevine yellow speckle viroids and hop stunt viroid in *Vitis vinifera* in Kazakhstan. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-04-25-0798-PDN

Murcia Bermudez JM, Porchas MA, Gonzalez-Bello DA, Soto-Robles R, Poudel B (2025) First report of watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1 (WCLaV-1) and (WCLaV-2) infecting *Citrullus lanatus* in Arizona, USA. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-10-24-2187-PDN

Mustafayev E, Mustafayeva H, Fuchs M (2025) First report of apple stem grooving virus in apple and pear trees in Azerbaijan. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-02-25-0359-PDN

NPPO of Australia (2025-05). Tomato brown rugose fruit virus https://www.outbreak.gov.au/current-outbreaks/tomato-brown-rugose-fruit-virus#toc_0

NPPO of Germany (2025-06).

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

Computer codes: ASGV00, EMPOBI, ERWIAN, FUSANR, GYSVD1, GYSVD2, HSVD00, LAPHFR, LCV000, LIRISA, MELGFA, RALSPS, RALSSO, TOBRFV, WCLAV1, WCLAV2, AE, AU, AZ, CN, DE, EG, FJ, KZ, MQ, US

2025/140 Recent updates in the EPPO Global Database

The EPPO Global Database is continuously updated with new information. Some recent updates are listed here.

The following new or revised distribution maps for invasive alien plants are available:

- *Acacia pycnantha:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ACAPY/distribution
- *Arundo donax:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ABKDO/distribution
- *Bothriochloa barbinodis:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANOBA/distribution
- *Cenchrus longisetus:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PESVI/distribution
- *Chasmanthe floribunda:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CSHFL/distribution
- *Claytonia perfoliata:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CLAPE/distribution
- *Dactyloctenium aegyptium:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DTTAE/distribution
- *Eleocharis bonariensis:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ELOBO/distribution
- *Leucaena leucocephala* subsp. *glabrata:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LUALG/distribution
- *Lonicera japonica:* https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LONJA/distribution

- *Melia azedarach*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MEIAZ/distribution
- *Paraserianthes lophantha* subsp. *lophantha*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PSZLL/distribution
- *Parkinsonia aculeata*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PAKAC/distribution
- *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PTFFR/distribution
- *Salpichroa origanifolia*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SAPOR/distribution
- *Senecio angulatus*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SENAN/distribution
- *Sinacalia tangutica*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SNLTA/distribution
- *Spiraea alba*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SPVAB/distribution
- *Spiraea japonica*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SPVJA/distribution
- *Telekia speciosa*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TEKSP/distribution
- *Zea mexicana*: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/EUHME/distribution

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2025-04).

Additional key words:, database, distribution, invasive alien plants

Computer codes: ABKDO, ACAPY, ANOBA, CLAPE, CSHFL, DTTAE, ELOBO, EUHME, LONJA, LUALG, MEIAZ, PAKAC, PESVI, PSZLL, PTFFR, SAPOR, SENAN, SNLTA, SPVAB, SPVJA, TEKSP

2025/141 New EU Regulations

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/356 removes *Leucinodes pseudorbonalis* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae – EPPO A1 List) from the Annex to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941.

The Implementing Regulation 2022/1630 establishing measures for the containment of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma (EPPO A2 List) has been amended. This is a consequence of surveys carried out in Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. Eradication of this pest is no longer considered possible in some demarcated areas in Nouvelle-Aquitaine (France) and in Tuscany and Lombardy (Italy). Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/358 lists demarcated areas in these countries where containment measures are applied. Buffer zones have been established in Austria as a consequence of demarcation of infested areas in Slovenia.

An amendment has been adopted on the Implementing Regulation 2022/1927 on containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae - EPPO A2 List). This is a consequence of surveys carried out in Croatia, France, Greece, and Italy showing that eradication of this pest was no longer possible in the counties of Dubrovnik Neretva, Primorje-Gorski and Split Dalmatia in Croatia, in Occitanie and Provence-Alpes-Côte-d'Azur in France, in the Regional Units of Achaia, Argolida and Corinthia, and the Region of Attica in Greece, and in the regions Abruzzo, Basilicata, Emilia-Romagna, Lazio, Lombardy, Marche, Apulia, Sicily and Tuscany in Italy. Commission Implementing Regulations 2025/1075 lists demarcated areas in these countries where containment measures are applied.

The Implementing Regulation 2022/1372 defining measures to prevent the entry and spread of *Meloidogyne graminicola* (EPPO A2 List) has been amended so that temporary measures in the containment areas are prolonged up to 30 June 2026.

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/356 of 21 February 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1941 as regards the prohibition of introduction,

movement, holding, multiplication or release of certain pests, *OJ L*, 2025/356, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/356/oj

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/358 of 21 February 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1630 as regards the list of demarcated areas for containment of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma. *OJ L* 2025/358 http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/358/oj

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1075 of 2 June 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1927 as regards the list of demarcated areas for containment of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Quaintance). *OJ L* 2025/1075, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/1075/oj

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1076 of 2 June 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1372 as regards the period of application of the measures to prevent the entry into, the movement and spread within, the multiplication and release in the Union of *Meloidogyne graminicola (*Golden & Birchfield), *OJ L* 2025/1076, http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/1076/oj

Additional key words: regulations **Computer codes:** ALECSN, LEUIPS, MELGGC, PHYP64, EU

2025/142 First report of *Dacus ciliatus* in Tunisia

During a trapping survey conducted between June 2020 and August 2020 in Takelsa (Nabeul Governorate, Northern Tunisia), the fruit fly *Dacus ciliatus* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A2 List) was found for the first time in Tunisia. Traps had been set in courgette (*Cucurbita pepo*) and cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) fields. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological identification.

In a separate survey conducted from 2020 to 2022 in four governorates in southern Tunisia, *D. ciliatus* was reported in fields of cucurbit crops, including snake cucumber (*Cucumis melo* var. *flexuosus*), the first record of *D. ciliatus* on this host, courgette and pumpkin (*Cucurbita pepo*), melon (*Cucumis melo*), wild gourd (*Citrullus colocynthis*), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) and watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) (Ben Othmen *et al.*, 2025).

The situation of *Dacus ciliatus* in Tunisia can be described as: **Present.**

During the survey for the presence of *D. ciliatus, Dacus frontalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae, EU A1 Quarantine Pest as *Dacus* spp.) was also reported for the first time on new hosts, including snake cucumber (*Cucumis melo* var. *flexuosus*), wild gourd (*Citrullus colocynthis*), cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*), watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) and aubergine (*Solanum melongena*) (Ben Othmen *et al.*, 2025).

Source: Ben Othmen A, Ben Belgacem A, Bel-Kadhi MS, Nagaz K, Braham M (2025) The invasive cucurbit fruit flies (Diptera: Tephritidae), *Dacus frontalis* Becker and *Dacus ciliatus* Loew in southern Tunisia: preliminary data on distribution, hosts and infestation. *Euro-Mediterranean Journal for Environmental Integration*

Ghalleb Y, Cherif A, Grissa-Lebdi K (2023) Efficacy of food attractants and attract-and-kill system to control *Dacus ciliatus* (Loew) (Tephritidae: Diptera): new recorded pest in northern Tunisia. *Journal of the Entomological Research Society* **25(2),** 267–274 https://doi.org/10.51963/jers.2023.85

Pictures *Dacus ciliatus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DACUCI/photos

Additional key words: new report **Computer codes:** DACUCI, DACUFR, TN

2025/143 First report of *Zeugodacus tau* in Italy

In May 2025, during a survey to monitor the presence of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) in the demarcated area for *B. dorsalis* in the municipality of San Gennaro Vesuviano, Campania region, a single male specimen of *Zeugodacus tau* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EU A1 Quarantine pest as *Zeugodacus* spp.) was found in a trap. The identity of the pest was confirmed by molecular testing. A phytosanitary treatment was carried out in the area where the specimen was found. No specific phytosanitary measures were implemented as those taken as part of the Action Plan for *B. dorsalis* was deemed to be appropriate also for *Z. tau*.

Source: NPPO of Italy (2025-06).

Additional key words: new record, incursion **Computer codes:** BCTRTA, IT

2025/144 First report of *Zaprionus indianus* in Hungary

In October 2023, during a monitoring campaign to detect the presence of *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae – EPPO A2 List) in Hungary, one female and four male specimens of *Zaprionus indianus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) were found in bait traps in two neighbouring sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*) orchards in the town of Érd, Pest county. No specimens were found during 2024. The authors consider that *Z. indianus* is unlikely to establish in Hungary due to the country's cold winters and suggest that this finding was a transient occurrence of *Z. indianus* in Hungary.

The situation of *Zaprionus indianus* in Hungary can be described as: **Transient.**

Source: Nagy C, Şen E, Kiss B (2025) First record of African fig fly, *Zaprionus indianus* Gupta, 1970 (Diptera, Drosophilidae) in Hungary. *Bulletin of Insectology* **78**, 27-33. https://doi.org/10.3897/bull.insectology.154143

Pictures *Zaprionus indianus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ZAPRIN/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ZAPRIN, HU

2025/145 First report of *Zaprionus tuberculatus* in Algeria

Zaprionus tuberculatus (Diptera: Drosophilidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported from Algeria. The pest was found in fig (*Ficus carica*) fruits collected from orchards in the municipalities of Birtouta and Rouiba (province of Algiers, Northern Algeria). *Zaprionus indianus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) was also recorded for the first time in figs in Algeria. It had previously only been found in pomegranate in this country (EPPO RS 2021/166). Both species were identified by morphological and molecular tests. Algeria is a major fig producer.

Source: Abdelbaki L, Saidi-Touati M, Serrano C, Yassin A, Boutellis A (2024) New haplotypes of *Zaprionus tuberculatus and Zaprionus indianus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) identified in fig orchards in Algeria. *Oriental Insects* ***59***(2), 326-339.

Pictures *Zaprionus indianus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ZAPRIN/photos

Zaprionus tuberculatus. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ZAPRTU/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ZAPRIN, ZAPRTU, DZ

2025/146 An emerging *Platynota* sp. (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) on blueberry in Peru

Blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) is a relatively new crop in Peru. A survey was carried out in 2022 in the department of Lima to identify emerging pests. A species of *Platynota* was recorded as a significant pest affecting blueberry crops throughout the vegetative, flowering, and fruiting stage. Larvae scrape leaf and bud surfaces and penetrate the fruit, creating entry points for secondary fungal and bacterial infections. The pest could only be identified up to genus level *Platynota* by morphological and molecular tests. However, species-level identification remains unresolved due to the absence of closely related reference sequences.

Source: Velasquez R, Leiva AM, Gil-Ordóñez A, Perez-Fuentes LS, Domínguez V and Cuellar WJ (2025) An emerging *Platynota* sp. (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae) infesting blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) in the central coast of Peru. *Frontiers in Insect Science* 5, 1593907. https://doi.org/10.3389/finsc.2025.1593907

Additional key words: new record, new pest **Computer codes:** PLAASP, PE

2025/147 Eradication of *Thaumetopoea processionea* in Ireland

The NPPO of Ireland recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that the oak processionary moth *Thaumetopoea processionea* (Lepidoptera: Notodontidae – EU Annexes) has been eradicated from their territory. *T. processionea* is a protected zone quarantine pest in Ireland. In June 2023, four nests of *T. processionea* had been found on four adjacent *Quercus robur* trees in the municipality of Castleknock (EPPO RS 2023/135). The nests were reported by a member of the public in a green square in a housing development on trees that had been planted in 2019. Official measures were taken (destruction of the infested trees and nests). Based on a recent survey, the NPPO considers that *T. processionea* has been eradicated.

The pest status of *Thaumetopoea processionea* in Ireland is officially declared as: **Absent, pest eradicated.**

Source: NPPO of Ireland (2025-06).

Pictures *Thaumetopoea processionea*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/THAUPR/photos

Additional key words: absence, eradication **Computer codes:** THAUPR, IE

2025/148 First report of *Meloidogyne luci* in Ethiopia

During surveys conducted throughout 2021 in Ethiopia, specimens of the root-knot nematode *Meloidogyne luci* (EPPO A2 List) were found infecting the roots of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) in Minjar district, Amhara region. The presence of *M. luci* was confirmed using molecular techniques and Koch's postulates were confirmed. Chickpea had previously been shown to be good host in inoculation trials, but this is the first report of natural infection in *C. arietinum*. This is the first record of *M. luci* in Africa.

Source: Kefelegn H, Couvreur M, Meressa BH, Wesemael WM, Teklu MG, Bert W (2025) First report of the root-knot nematode, *Meloidogyne luci* parasitizing chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) in Ethiopia. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-01-25-0096-PDN

Pictures *Meloidogyne luci*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MELGLC/photos

Additional key words: new record, new host plant **Computer codes:** MELGLC, ET

2025/149 First report of *Cryptostroma corticale* in Ireland

Cryptostroma corticale, the causal agent of sooty bark disease of sycamore, is reported for the first time from Ireland. It was detected in samples of symptomatic *Acer pseudoplatanus* collected in Phoenix Park in Dublin in September 2024. The identify of the fungus was confirmed by morphological and molecular tests.
This disease is spreading in the EPPO region (EPPO RS 2023/211, RS 2024/091) and outbreaks are favoured by climate change.

Source: Byrne T, Gregan D, Flanagan D, Riebesehl J, Rathore DS (2025) First report of *Cryptostroma corticale* causing sooty bark disease of sycamore in Ireland. *New Disease Reports* 51(2), e70038. https://doi.org/10.1002/ndr2.70038

Pictures *Cryptostroma corticale*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CRPSCO/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** CRPSCO, IE

2025/150 First report of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* in Iran

The bacterial wilt of maize caused by *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Iran. Suspected symptoms on maize (*Zea mays*) plants were observed in fields in Iranshahr County (Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Southeastern Iran) in 2019. As *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* is a quarantine pest in Iran, a four-year comprehensive field survey and sampling program was initiated across maize growing areas in the country to monitor the occurrence and distribution of the disease. The survey covered 180 maize fields in 18 provinces and 51 counties. As a result, Stewart's wilt disease was found in different geographic areas of Iran i.e. Bushehr, Fars, Hormozgan, Kermanshah, Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad and Sistan-Baluchestan Provinces.
The authors note that *Chaetocnema pulicaria*, the primary vector of *P. stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*, does not occur in Iran, which suggests that spread into and within the country is probably associated with infected seed.

Source: Alvandi H, Taghavi SM, Zarei S, Ansari M, Heidari M, Fazliarab A, Aeini M, Portier P, Osdaghi E (2025) Monitoring the occurrence and distribution of Stewart's wilt of maize in Iran. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-03-25-0509-SR

Pictures *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ERWIST/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ERWIST, IR

2025/151 Update on the situation of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* in Italy

In Italy, the bacterial wilt of maize caused by *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* (EPPO A2 List) had been found in several regions but was subsequently eradicated (EPPO RS 2020/130, RS 2021/201, RS 2022/065). During the period 2022-2024, the pathogen has been found during annual surveys of maize (*Zea mays*) grown for seed in Emilia-Romagna region in several fields in the province of Bologna, Ferrara, and Ravenna and subsequently eradicated. In June 2025 the pathogen was detected in the province of Bologna, and eradication measures are applied.

The pest status of *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii* in Italy is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Italy (2025-06).

Pictures *Pantoea stewartii* subsp. *stewartii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ERWIST/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** ERWIST, IT

2025/152 Update on the situation of *Elsinoë fawcettii* in the Azores (Portugal)

Elsinoë fawcettii (EU Annexes) was first detected on *Citrus* sp. in orchards in the Azores in July 2021 on the island of São Miguel in the counties of Lagoa and Ponta Delgada (EPPO RS 2020/021) before spreading to five new parishes across the counties of Lagoa, Nordeste, Povoação and Ribeira Grande on São Miguel island (EPPO RS 2023/147). Later, *E. fawcettii* was detected in Horta county on Faial island in March 2023 and in the parishes of Almagreira and Santo Espirito on Santa Maria island in October 2022 (EPPO RS 2023/147).

As a result of the official monitoring programme, new outbreaks of *E. fawcettii* have been found on

- Santa Maria island:

Six *Citrus* species, including *Citrus x limon, Citrus x aurantium* var. *sinensis* and *Citrus reticulata,* were found to be infected in two small orchards and one private garden in the parishes of Santo Espirito and São Pedro. This is the first finding in the parish of São Pedro. The new outbreak in Santo Espirito parish increases the size of the infested and demarcated areas. This brings the total number of demarcated areas for *E. fawcettii* on Santa Maria to three.

- Faial island:

New outbreaks were also reported in Horta county on Faial island with findings in 14 samples of *Citrus* species, including *C. limon, C.* x *limonia* and *C.* x *aurantium* var. *deliciosa,* resulting in the establishment of 6 new demarcated areas and the enlargement of 4 demarcated areas in this county.

Phytosanitary measures have been applied to eradicate the pest including destruction of infected plant material, chemical treatments and restrictions on the movement of *Citrus* plants.

The pest status of *Elsinoë fawcettii* in Portugal is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication, only in some parts of the Member State concerned.**

Source: NPPO of Portugal (2025-06).

Pictures *Elsinoë fawcettii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/RALSPS/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** ELSIFA, PT

2025/153 Update on the situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* in Peru

In Peru, *Xylella fastidiosa* (EPPO A2 List) was first reported in 2024 in the Junín region (EPPO RS 2024/222). A national decree published in May 2025 specifies that the subspecies present is *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca*. The pest is under official control nationwide. Phytosanitary measures are applied in areas where its presence is identified, in order to ensure its control and containment.

Xylella fastidiosa subsp. *pauca* has been detected in the regions of Amazonas, Cajamarca, Cusco, Huánuco, Junín, Lambayeque, Loreto, Pasco, Puno, San Martín, and Ucayali in coffee crops (*Coffea arabica)*, and in the regions of Junín and Loreto in citrus crops *(Citrus* x *aurantiifolia*, *Citrus* x *limonia* var. *jambhiri*, *C. reticulata* and *C.* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis*), with ten asymptomatic positive cases (9 in Junín and 1 in Loreto).

The pest status of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* in Peru is officially declared as: **Present, under official control**.

Source: SENASA (2025) Resolución Directoral Nº D000022-2025 MIDAGRI-SENASA-DSV: Declaran bajo control oficial la plaga *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca*, a nivel nacional, y dictan otras disposiciones. https://www.gob.pe/institucion/senasa/normas-legales/6793598-022-2025-midagri-senasa-dsv

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

Additional key words: detailed record. **Computer codes:** XYLEFA, XYLEFP, PE

2025/154 First report of blueberry leaf mottle virus in France

The NPPO of France recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of blueberry leaf mottle virus (*Nepovirus myrtilli*, BLMoV, EPPO A1 List) in France. During a research project, BLMoV was detected in March 2025 on two grapevine accessions (*Vitis vinifera*) in an insect-proof greenhouse in a heritage grapevine conservatory in Gard department (Occitanie region). The plants had been imported from Portugal in 2016. The identity of the pest was confirmed by molecular testing. All of the other grapevine accessions in the greenhouse tested negative for the presence of BLMoV. Eradication measures were taken in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/2031, including destruction of the two plants that tested positive for BLMoV and all plants grown from those accessions (10 in total).

The pest status of blueberry leaf mottle virus in France is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of France (2025-06).

Pictures *Nepovirus myrtilli*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/BLMOV0/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** BLMOV0, FR

2025/155 First record of pepper chat fruit viroid in Türkiye

Pepper chat fruit viroid (*Pospiviroid parvicapsici* - PCFVd) is a recently described viroid on tomato and capsicum. PCFVd was first reported in the EPPO region in the Netherlands. It was subsequently eradicated (EPPO RS 2013/127) but was later intercepted in seed (RS 2018/108). PCFVd is a quarantine pest for the United Kingdom.

During a survey to detect the presence of PCFVd in Türkiye, 140 leaf samples of sweet pepper (*Capsicum annuum)* and chilli pepper (*Capsicum frutescens*) were collected from symptomatic plants showing yellowing, mottling, stunting and reduced fruit size in Adana, Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş provinces from May to September 2024. Molecular testing confirmed the presence of PCFVd in 30% of samples from Adana and 10% of samples from Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş. The authors consider that the high incidence of PCFVd across these provinces suggests that PCFVd is already widespread in Türkiye.

Source: Balsak SC (2025) First molecular characterization of Pepper chat fruit viroid infecting pepper crops in Turkey. *Journal of Plant Diseases and Protection* **132**, 96 https://doi.org/10.1007/s41348-025-01091-4

Pictures *Pospiviroid parvicapsici*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PCFVD0/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** PCFVD0, TR

2025/156 First report of watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1 (WCLaV-1) and WCLaV-2 in Spain

Watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1(*Coguvirus citrulli*, WCLaV-1 – EPPO Alert List) and watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 2 (*Coguvirus henanense*, WCLaV-2 – EPPO Alert List) are first reported from Spain.
In 2023 WCLaV-1 was first detected by HTS in a specimen of melon aphid (*Aphis gossypii*) collected from field-grown cucurbit crops exhibiting yellowing and mosaic virus-like symptoms in the region of Murcia (south-eastern Spain).
To assess the occurrence and distribution of WCLaV-1 and -2 in cucurbit production areas in Murcia, 10 diseased cucurbit samples (two samples from crops of courgette, cucumber, melon, pumpkin and watermelon) were tested using RT-PCR. Both viruses were detected in watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus*) samples.
Dot-blot hybridization analysis of 50 frozen samples of cucurbit crops collected between 2022 and 2024 revealed that WCLaV-1 and WCLaV-2 were present in 45% and 9% of watermelon samples with virus-like symptoms, respectively, as well as in melon (*Cucumis melo*) and cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) samples at a low frequency (WClaV-1: 4% and 9%, respectively; WCLaV-2: 7% and 1%, respectively). These are the first reports of melon and cucumber as hosts.

Further studies should be conducted to assess the distribution and impact of both viruses in Spain.

Source: de Moya-Ruiz C, Juárez M, Ferriol I, Gómez P (2025) First report of watermelon crinkle leaf-associated virus 1 and 2 in different cucurbit hosts in Spain. *New Disease Reports* **51**(2), e70040. https://doi.org/10.1002/ndr2.70040

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** APHIGO, WCLAV1, WCLAV2, ES

2025/157 Recent studies and reviews involving bacteria associated with acute oak decline

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, RS 2018/126 and RS 2022/134). In the EPPO region, one or more of these bacteria have previously been reported from oak in Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom (see RS 2022/134). In addition, a fourth bacterium, *Lonsdalea britannica*, was also found associated with acute oak decline in the United Kingdom. Recent studies report the bacteria in other countries as follows:

- In France, *B. goodwinii*, *G. quercinecans* and *R. victoriana* were detected in several forests on pedunculate oak (*Quercus robur*) and sessile oak (*Q. petraea*) (RS 2024/175).
- In Slovakia, *B. goodwinii* and *G. quercinecans* were detected for the first time on *Q. robur* in the eastern part of the country (RS 2025/014).
- In Serbia, *B. goodwinii* and *G. quercinecans* were found on *Q. robur* in two localities (RS 2025/086).
- In Croatia, *B. goodwinii*, *G. quercinecans* and *L. britannica* were detected in 2021 on holm oak *Q. ilex* on the Pelegrin peninsula (Hvar Island) where decline symptoms had been observed (Pernek, 2022).
- In Italy, a study on the possible biotic causes of the decline of *Q. ilex* in the Salento peninsula (Puglia region, south-eastern Italy) detected *B. goodwinii*, *G. quercinecans* and *R. victoriana* in all 7 sampling sites in rural areas (small woods), in respectively, 82 %, 64 % and 62 % of samples collected from symptomatic *Q. ilex* trees in 2022-2023. The three bacteria were not detected in symptomatic urban trees (roadside and parks) (Carluccio *et al.*, 2024). In further studies, *B. goodwinii* and *G. quercinecans* were detected in samples from symptomatic kermes oaks (*Q. coccifera*) from Bosco dei Romani, Salento peninsula, while *R. victoriana* was not found (Carluccio *et al.*, 2025).

In addition, two recent reviews, Gosling et al. (2024) and Bene *et al.* (2025) provide details on acute oak decline.

It is worth noting that *B. goodwinii*, *G. quercinecans* and *R. victoriana* have been found associated with several oak species. In addition, a few recent studies reported them on other trees : *G. quercinecans* on *Tilia cordata* in Poland (Tkaczyk *et al.*, 2024), *B. goodwinii* (and other *Brenneria* spp.) and *R. victoriana* on *Carpinus betulus* in Iran (Moradi-Amirabad *et al.*, 2019), *G. quercinecans* (and several *Brenneria* spp.) on *Juglans regia* in Iran (Allahverdipour *et al.*, 2020; Firouzianbandpey & Khodaygan, 2024) and *G. quercinecans* on *Elaeagnus angustifolia* in Iran (Basavand *et al.*, 2021).

Data on the distribution and hosts of *Gibbsiella quercinecans* have been added to EPPO Global Database at: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/GIBSQU.

Source: Allahverdipour T, Shahryari F, Falahi Charkhabi N (2020) First report of walnut bacterial canker caused by *Gibbsiella quercinecans* and *Brenneria roseae* subsp. *roseae* in Iran. *New Disease Reports* 41(1), 12.

Basavand E, Khodaygan P, Doonan JM, Rahimian H (2021) *Gibbsiella quercinecans* as new pathogen involved in bacterial canker of Russian olive. 3 Biotech 11(6), 286.

Bene A, Vergine M, Carluccio G, Portaccio L, Delle Donne AG, De Bellis L, Luvisi A (2025) Acute oak decline-associated bacteria: an emerging worldwide threat to forests. *Microorganisms* **13**, 1127. 16 pp. https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms13051127

Carluccio G, Sabella E, Greco D, Vergine M, Delle Donne AG, Nutricati E, Aprile A, De Bellis L, Luvisi A (2024) Acute and Chronic Oak Decline in urban and forest ecosystems in Southern Italy. F*orestry: An International Journal of Forest Research* **97**, 739-749.

Carluccio G, Vergine M, De Pascali M, Bene A, Portaccio L, Delle Donne A, De Bellis L, Luvisi A (2025) *Brenneria goodwinii* and *Gibbsiella quercinecans* as a Threat to *Quercus coccifera* L. *Forests* **16**, 789.

Firouzianbandpey S, Khodaygan P (2024) *Gibbsiella quercinecans*, a pathogen with an increasing prevalence: A study on the causative agents of bacterial canker of Persian walnut and oak trees in central provinces of Iran. *Plant Pathology* **73**(1), 198-212.

Gosling RH, Jackson RW, Elliot M, Nichols CP (2024) Oak declines: Reviewing the evidence for causes, management implications and research gaps. *Ecological Solutions and Evidence* **5**(4), e12395.

Moradi-Amirabad Y, Rahimian H, Babaeizad V, Denman S (2019) *Brenneria* spp. and *Rahnella victoriana* associated with acute oak decline symptoms on oak and hornbeam in Iran. *Forest Pathology* 49(4), e12535. 14 pp. https://doi.org/10.1111/efp.12535.

Pernek M, Kovač M, Jukić A, Dubravac T, Lacković N, Brady C (2022) Akutno odumiranje hrastova (AOH) - nova kompleksna bolest na hrastu crniki (Quercus ilex L.) i mogućnost širenja na ostale vrste hrastova U Hrvatskoj. *Šumarski list* **9-10**, 439-446. doi: 10.31298/sl.146.9-10.5

Tkaczyk M, Sikora K, Plewa R (2024) Dieback of small-leaved lime trees (*Tilia cordata* Mill.) caused by *Gibsiella quercinecans* in urban areas in Poland. *Forest Pathology* **54**(3), e12861.

Additional key words: new record, host plants

Computer codes: BRNNGO, GIBSQU, LNSDQB, RAHNVI, FR, HR, IT, IR, RS, SK

2025/158 *Neopestalotiopsis rosae* is causing strawberry and blueberry diseases in the EPPO region

Several *Neopestalotiopsis* species have recently been recorded as causing emerging disease on strawberry in different parts of the world (EPPO RS 2021/229). New outbreaks continue to occur around the world as the pathogen can be moved with plants for planting, and then persists in the soil and can infect a number of economically important crops.

In the EPPO region, *Neopestalotiopsis rosae* has recently been recorded as causing a severe disease to strawberry in Germany and Italy. It was also recently recorded as damaging blueberry crops in Portugal and Serbia.

The distribution map of *Neopestalotiopsis rosae* has been updated: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/NPESRS/distribution.

Source: Blagojević J, Aleksić G, Vučurović I, Starović M, Ristić D (2024) Exploring the phylogenetic diversity of Botryosphaeriaceae and *Diaporthe* species causing dieback and shoot blight of blueberry in Serbia. *Phytopathology* **114**(6), 1333-1345.

Dardani G, Martino I, Aloi F, Carli C, Giordano R, Spadaro D, Guarnaccia V (2025) Characterization of *Neopestalotiopsis* species associated with strawberry crown rot in Italy. *Agronomy* **15**, 1-8 https://doi.org/10.3390/horticulturae11030288

Schierling TE, Voegele RT, El-Hasan A (2024) First report on the emergence of *Neopestalotiopsis rosae* as a severe economic threat to strawberry production in Germany. *Microorganisms* **13**, 6 https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms13010006

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** NPESRS, DE, IT, RS

2025/159 Viruses, virus-like diseases and viroids of grapevine that should not be regulated

In addition to the recent work done on phantom agents of fruit crops (EPPO RS 2025/130), a review was recently conducted by a group of virologists from over 120 institutions worldwide to consider additional viruses, virus-like diseases, and viroids that should not be subject to regulatory oversight in relation to grapevine. The list includes nine viruses, nine viroids, 14 virus-like diseases, and 129 presumed viruses of the grapevine, that are not phantom agents but should be excluded from regulation or should not be regulated. This list is anticipated to assist policy makers adopt regulations that expedite the safe exchange of *Vitis* germplasm across regulatory boundaries while reducing incentives for illicit introductions.

Table 1 Virus and viroids that should not be regulated on grapevine because they have no impact on grapevine

Name	Acronym	EPPO Code	Reason why they should not be regulated
Cherry leafroll virus (*Nepovirus avii)*	CLRV	CLRV00	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine asteroid mosaic-associated virus (*Marafivirus asteroides)*	GAMaV	GAMAV0	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine fleck virus (*Maculavirus vitis)*	GFkV	GFKV00	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine leafroll-associated virus 7 (*Velarivirus septemvitis)*	GLRaV7	GLRAV7	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine Red Globe virus	GRGV	GRGV00	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine rupestris stem pitting-associated virus (*Foveavirus rupestris)*	GRSPaV	GVRSP0	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine rupestris vein feathering virus	GRVFV	GRVFV0	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine Syrah virus 1 (*Marafivirus syrahense*)	GSyV1	GSYV10	Latent infection, no impact
Grapevine-associated marafivirus	GaMV	-	Latent infection, no impact
Australian grapevine viroid (*Apscaviroid austravitis*)	AGVd	AGVD00	No impact
Citrus exocortis viroid (*Pospiviroid exocortiscitri=*	CEVd	CEVD00	No impact
Grapevine hammerhead viroid	GHVd	-	No impact
Grapevine latent viroid	GLVd	-	No impact
Grapevine yellow speckle viroid 1 (*Apscaviroid alphaflavivitis)*	GYSVd1	GYSVD1	No impact

Grapevine yellow speckle viroid 2 (*Apscaviroid betaflavivitis)*	GYSVd2	GYSVD2	No impact
Grapevine yellow speckle viroid 3	GYSVd3	-	No impact
Hop stunt viroid (*Hostuviroid impedihumuli)*	HSVd	HSVD00	No impact
Japanese grapevine viroid	JGVd	-	No impact

Among the 14 virus-like diseases of uncertain etiology and limited impact that should not be regulated, the following have EPPO Codes: Ajinashika (associated with grapevine Ajinashika-associated virus - GAV000), Vein necrosis (GVVN00) and Vein mosaic (GVVM00).

Finally the article lists 129 viruses that include grapevine in their name because they were first identified when characterizing the microbiome of grapevines by HTS, but that should not be regulated because they probably do not use grapevine as a host. None of them have an EPPO Code.

Source: Fuchs M, Rwahnih MA, Blouin AG, Burger J, Chooi KM, Constable F, Ertunc F, Fiore N, Habili N, Hily JM, Katis N (2025) A list of eclectic viruses, virus-like diseases and viroids of grapevines that should not be considered for regulatory oversight: a global plea from virologists. *Journal of Plant Pathology* 107, 847-858. https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-025-01871-9

Additional key words: regulation

Computer codes: 1VIRUK, 1VIRLD, 1VITG, AGVD00, CEVD00, CLRV00, GAMAV0, GAMV00, GAV000, GFKV00, GLRAV7, GRGV00, GRVFV0, GVRSP0, GVVM00, GVVN00, GSYV10, GYSVD1, GYSVD2, HSVD00

2025/160 *Ageratina altissima* in the EPPO region: addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why
Ageratina altissima (Asteraceae) is recorded as a transient species in a number of EPPO countries though it is established in Austria and Italy. In Austria, is has recently been recorded to have spread significantly since its first detection in 2006. The Panel on Invasive Alien Plants have added *Ageratina altissima* to the Alert List with the aim to collect further information on established populations and evidence of impact in the EPPO region.

Geographical distribution
EPPO region: Austria, Belgium*, Czechia*, Germany*, Hungary*, Italy, Poland*
Asia: Republic of Korea
North America: Canada (New Brunswick, Northwest Territories, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec), USA (Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North, Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin)
* - transient populations

Morphology
Stems ascending to erect, sometimes semi-scandent, puberulent, up to 120 cm. Leaves opposite, ovate or broadly lanceolate, sometimes ovate-lanceolate (2-10 cm long). Heads clustered. Peduncles 1–5 mm, puberulent. Involucres 4–5 mm. Flowers are white, lobes sparsely short-villous. Cypselae glabrous.

Biology and Ecology
In the native range, *A. altissima* spreads rapidly through underground rhizomes. It can also produce seed, with more seed produced in its second and later years.

Habitats
In the EPPO region, *A. altissima* is recorded to occur in forest plantations. This is similar to the habitats the species invades in the Republic of Korea. It can also grow in disturbed habitats and along transportation networks (roads and railways). It prefers partial to full shade. It grows best in moist- humus rich soils.

Pathways for movement
Plants for planting: *Ageratina altissima* is traded as a garden ornamental plant throughout the EPPO region. Escape from gardens and areas where it has been planted is the likely cause of its occurrence in the natural environment.

Impacts
Ageratina altissima can form dense stands and compete with native plants. It has the potential to affect woodland regeneration. *A. altissima* is poisonous to livestock and if they ingest it, and meat and milk from animals that feed on it can be toxic to humans.

Control
Chemical control methods can be used against *A. altissima* but care should be taken and application may be limited in specific habitats. Manual and mechanical control is complicated by the extensive rhizomes. Mowing or cutting plants during flowering can reduce seed production.

Source: Essl F (2025) The distribution of *Ageratina altissima* (L.) R. M. King & H. Rob. in Austria. *BioInvasions Records* **14**(1), 13–18. https://doi.org/10.3391/bir.2025.14.1.02
Kang W, Song Y, Lee D, Kim G, Chae H (2019) Identifying habitats and corridors of an invasive plant, *Ageratina altissima*, in an urban forest. *Landscape and Ecological Engineering* **15**, 277–287

Kim E, Choi J, SongW (2021) Introduction and spread of the invasive alien species Ageratina altissima in a disturbed forest ecosystem. *Sustainability* **13**, 6152. https://doi.org/10.3390/su13116152

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

2025/161 Alien plant species on the island of Menorca (Islas Baleares, Spain)

Island biodiversity can be particularly vulnerable to invasions by non-native species, largely due to the insular ecosystems which harbour endemic species. Menorca, the second largest island in the Balearic archipelago has been a designated Biosphere Reserve since 1993. A study was conducted on the alien plant species present on this island. The island was divided into 10 x 10 km grids and the habitat types in each grid was defined : cliffs (or rock walls), crops, dunes, forests (or shrublands), roadsides, rocky shores, streams and wetlands. Alien species were mapped and their abundance was estimated using the DAFOR scale. In total, there were 858 occurrences of 117 alien plant taxa. Most alien flora were trees and shrubs (33 taxa), annuals (27 taxa), low growing perennials (33 taxa) and vines (15 taxa). The abundance of alien taxa differed between the eight habitats. The abundance in stream habitats was higher than in rocky shores, forests and dunes. Management of alien species on Menorca should focus in areas of high conservation value while at the same time avoiding spread from areas where potential invasive alien plants are planted.

Table 1. Most abundant alien plant species on the island of Menorca

Species	Family	Native range	Habitats
Agave americana	Agavaceae	Nearctic	D, F, Cl, Rs, W
Amaranthus retroflexus	Amaranthaceae	Nearctic	Cr, St, Rs, W
*Arundo donax**	Poaceae	Paleotropical	Cl, St, Rs, W
Cenchrus clandestinus	Poaceae	Paleotropical	All except Cl
Digitaria spp.	Poaceae	Neotropical	Cr, D, St, Rs, W
Erigeron bonariensis	Asteraceae	Neotropical	All habitats
Erigeron sumatrensis	Asteraceae	Mediterranean	All habitats
Jacobaea maritima	Asteraceae	Mediterranean	D, F, Cl, St, W
Lantana × strigocamara	Verbenaceae	Artificial hybrids	All except St
Opuntia ficus-indica	Cactaceae	Neotropical	F, Cl, St, Rs
*Oxalis pes-caprae**	Oxalidaceae	South Africa	All except W
Phoenix canariensis	Arecaceae	Macaronesian	All habitats
Pittosporum tobira	Pittosporaceae	East Asia	All except Rs
Symphyotrichum squamatum	Asteraceae	South America	All habitats

* Species is listed on the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants
Habitats where the taxa are present in Menorca: crops (Cr), cliffs (Cl), dunes (D), forest (F), roadsides (Rs), streams (St), wetlands (W)

Source: Capó M, Borrás J, Fraga-Arguimbau P, Rita J, Cursach J (2025) The alien flora on the island of Menorca, a biosphere reserve. *Biodiversity and Conservation*. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10531-025-03095-w

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant

Computer codes: 1DIGG, 1LANG, ABKDO, AGVAM, AMARE, ASTSQ, ERIBO, ERISU, OPUFI, OXAPC, PESCL, PHXCA, PTUTO, SENBI, ES

2025/162 Biogeographical studies of *Myriophyllum rubricaule*

Myriophyllum species (Haloragaceae) have been popular in trade though some species are invasive or potentially invasive (e.g. *M. aquaticum*: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants, *M. heterophyllum*: EPPO A2 pest and *M. rubricaule*: EPPO Alert List). *M. rubricaule* has been described as only known from cultivation. In 2023, a survey was conducted in Chile and *M. rubricaule* was recorded in the Araucania region (Cautin Province), and the Los Rios region (Valdivia province).*M. rubricaule* was found in a temporary nutrient-rich pond in a meadow accompanied by *Ludwigia peploides* (Onagraceae: EPPO A2 pest) and *Hydrocotyle* sp. (Araliaceae). In the EPPO region, *M. rubricaule* is known in Belgium and the Netherlands, where it has escaped from cultivation into the natural environment. It has also been reported from Hungary, and recent iNaturalist records provide locations for Austria, Denmark and Great Britain, where in the case of the latter, the observation is supported by a herbarium collection. *M. aquaticum* and *M. rubricaule* are similar in growth habit and preference for nutrient rich marshy habitats and slow flowing waters. Both species regrow from fragments and it is this vigour that has made them popular ornamental plants. In addition, both species show adaptability to the Atlantic climate in Europe. Observations in mesocosms and urban waters in the Netherlands suggest that *M. rubricaule* remains of more modest dimensions compared to *M. aquaticum*. A more detailed study on the competitive potential of *M. rubricaule* is needed in the EPPO region to be able to assess its invasive potential.

Source: Van Valkenburg J, Duistermaat L, Brundu G, Piet L, Beyer J (2025) *Myriophyllum rubricaule* Valk. & Duist. Revisited. *Botany Letters*, https://doi.org/10.1080/23818107.2025.2497323

Pictures https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MYPRU/photos

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant

Computer codes: LUDPE, MYPBR, MYPHE, MYPRU, CL, AT, DK, GB, NL, HU

2025/163 Impacts of *Senecio inaequidens* at a local and global level

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 particular in western Europe where it occurs in a number of different habitats from dry pastures to woodland. It can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services and it has been shown to reduce species richness in high-altitude pastures. A study was conducted in 2022 in Lombardia (northern Italy). Six habitat patches (30 x 30 m) were selected and within each, five pairs of 1 x 1 m invaded and uninvaded plots were randomly chosen. Soil samples were collected from each plot and the composition and cover of each plant species within the plot was estimated. The soil chemistry and bacteria diversity were measured for each soil sample. The results showed no difference in soil chemistry between invaded and uninvaded plots. Plant diversity and soil bacteria diversity marginally increased in invaded plots, whereas plant species richness increased significantly in low-productivity invaded plots. Overall, the field study showed only minor impacts, and in some cases positive impacts due to the presence of *S. inaequidens*. In addition to the field study, a global assessment of *S,*

inaequidens was conducted using the Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT) framework. Twelve impact studies (including the current study) were used in the EICAT assessment with the outcome that *S. inaequidens* should be included in the moderate impact category, indicating negative effects on native taxa without causing local extinctions. Combining a local study with a global impact assessment highlights the need to consider context-dependency in invasion ecology.

Source: Quaglini LA, Yannelli FA, Fasano F, Citterio S, Gentili R (2025) Assessing local and global ecological impacts of the alien plant *Senecio inaequidens* across different environmental conditions in Northern Italy and applying EICAT. *Weed Research*, 65, e70019. https://doi.org/10.1111/wre.70019

Pictures https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SENIQ/photos

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