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2025/164 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**

Eutetranychus africanus (Acari: Tetranychidae) is first recorded from New Caledonia, FR. This mite was found in January 2025 on a symptomatic fig tree (*Ficus carica*) in a field in Païta. Surveys are being conducted to confirm the presence of this pest and to assess its distribution across the territory. No other specimens have been found to date (IPPC, 2025).

The rice root nematode *Hirschmanniella oryzae* (regulated by the EU as *Hirschmanniella* spp.) is first reported from Kenya. It was detected both in irrigated lowland and rain-fed upland rice crops (*Oryza sativa*) *(*Ndirangu *et al.*, 2024).

Maconellicoccus hirsutus (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae – EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Ecuador. The mealybug was detected in urban trees in Guayaquil (province of Guayas) in 2022 and in Portoviejo (province of Manabí) in 2023 (Arias de López et al., 2025).

Pseudacysta perseae (Hemiptera: Tingidae, formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported from Africa, in Gabon. The avocado lace bug was recorded in 2022 on avocado trees (*Persea americana*) in home gardens in Franceville town (Poligui *et al.*, 2023).

Singhiella simplex (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported from Algeria. It was observed in May 2025 in the Mostaganem region, north-west Algeria on *Ficus microcarpa* trees present in public gardens and in green spaces (Labdaoui *et al.*, 2025).

The string cottony scale *Takahashia japonica* (Hemiptera: Coccidae) occurs in Switzerland. It is recorded in several municipalities in canton Ticino (Comune di Novazzano, 2025)

- **Detailed records**

In Thailand *Hirschmanniella oryzae* (regulated by the EU as *Hirschmanniella* spp.) has been detected in aquatic plants grown for export in Chachoengsao (central region) and Nakhon Ratchasima (north-eastern region). The nematode was detected from *Cryptocoryne costata, Echinodorus rose, E. amazonicus, Vallisneria spiralis, V. gigantea* (Suwanngam *et al.*, 2025).

In Spain *Vespa velutina* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae – EU IAS of concern) is reported to cause yield loss in vineyards (*Vitis vinifera*) in north-western Spain. Losses are caused by adults feeding on grapes and secondary fungal infections. Studies showed that trapping is not an effective management method (Lueje *et al.*, 2025).

In the USA, *Meloidogyne enterolobii* (EPPO A2 List) is is a federally regulated quarantine pest, known to occur in several south-western states (Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, North and South Carolina). It is reported for the first time in the state of Texas. In May 2024, root galls were observed on a tomato plant (*Solanum lycopersicum*) bought from a national retailer. The tomato plant was planted in a private garden but later died and a second tomato variety was planted in the same place and then developed root galls. *M. enterolobii* caused galls on these two tomato varieties which were reported to be resistant to root knot nematodes.

Molecular and morphological identification confirmed that the pest was *M. enterolobii*. As the plant was bought from a national retailer, Nunes Rodon *et al.* (2025) suggest that *M. enterolobii* could be present in other states too.

- **New host plants**

In China, *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* (EPPO A2 List) is reported for the first time on tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum)* where it was found in an open field in Guizhou province in July 2024. Infected *N. tabacum* showed chlorotic spots on the stem, wilting of leaves and stems, vascular browning and in severe cases death, resulting in yield losses over 20%. Molecular testing confirmed the identity of the pathogen and Koch's postulates were fulfilled. This is the first report of *C. flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in tobacco. The EPPO Secretariat previously did not have records of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* in China.

In China, squash leaf curl China virus (*Begomovirus cucurbitachinaense,* Geminiviridae – regulated by the EU as Begomoviruses) is reported for the first time on symptomatic watermelon (*Citrullus lanatus)* showing small, yellowing, and curling leaves with mosaic symptoms in a greenhouse in Zhejiang province in autumn 2023. Squash leaf curl China virus was previously reported to have a narrow host range, causing severe disease in pumpkin (*Cucurbita maxima)*, wax gourd (*Benincasa hispida*), and melon (*Cucumis melo*) and mild symptoms in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum)* and wild eggplant (*S. torvum*).

- **Taxonomy**

Based on genomic analysis, van Ingen-Buijs *et al.* (2024) showed that infraspecific variation between *P. citricarpa* (citrus black spot - EPPO A1 List) and *P. paracitricarpa* is minimal. Consequently *Phyllosticta paracitricarpa* should be considered as a synonym *to P. citricarpa*.

Sources:

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Nunes Rondon M, Baugh B, Chagoya J, Skantar AM, Handoo Z (2025) First report of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* infecting tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) in Texas, United States. *Plant Disease*, (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-04-25-0740-PDN

Poligui RN, Apinda LE, Nzandi H, Cornelie OB (2023) Presence of *Pseudacysta perseae* (Heidemann) (Hemiptera: Tingidae) and it relate predatory mirid *Stethoconus praefectus* on *Persea americana* at Franceville, Gabon. *Acta Entomology and Zoology* **4**(1), 37–43. https://doi.org/10.33545/27080013.2023.v4.i1a.94

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

Computer codes: CORBFL, EUTEAF, GUIGCI, HIRSOR, MELGMY, PHENHI, PSEYPE, SINLSI, SLCCNV, TAKAJA, VESPVE, CH, CN, DZ, EC, ES, GA, KE, NC, TH, US

2025/165 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 are available:
Anastrepha bahiensis (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTBA/distribution
Anastrepha coronilli (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTCR/distribution
Anastrepha curvicauda (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOXTCU/distribution
Anastrepha fuscicauda (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTFU/distribution
Anastrepha mucronata (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTMC/distribution
Anastrepha sororcula (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTSO/distribution
Anastrepha striata (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTST/distribution
Anastrepha turpiniae (Diptera: Tephritidae) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ANSTTU/distribution
Dendroctonus ponderosae (EPPO A1 List) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DENCPO/distribution
Melanotus communis (EPPO A1 List) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MELNCO/distribution

The host list of the following pest has been recently reviewed and updated with references:

- *Malacosoma parallela* (EPPO A1 List): https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/MALAPA/hosts

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2025-07).

Additional key words: publication, database, distribution, host plant

Computer codes: ANSTBA, ANSTCR, ANSTFU, ANSTMC, ANSTSO, ANSTST, ANSTTU, DENCPO, MALAPA, MELNCO, TOXTCU

2025/166 Changes made to the list of regulated pests of Great Britain

The following changes were made to the list of regulated pests of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) in 2025. It may be recalled that Northern Ireland applies EU regulations. The list has been updated in the EPPO Global Database: https://gd.eppo.int/country/GB/regulated.

Additions to the List of quarantine pests - Part A (pests not known to occur in Great Britain):

- *Heterobasidion irregulare*
- *Neodiprion abietis*
- *Pseudomonas avellanae*

Deletions from the Quarantine Pest list and addition to the list of Regulated non-quarantine pests

- Tobacco ringspot virus (*Nepovirus nicotianae*, TRSV)

Source: NPPO of the United Kingdom (2025-07).

Pictures *Heterobasidion irregulare*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/HETEIR/photos
Neodiprion abietis. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/NEODAB/photos/
Nepovirus nicotianae. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TRSV00/photos

Additional key words: regulation

Computer codes: NEODAB, HETEIR, PSDMAL, GB

2025/167 Incursion of *Popillia japonica* in Spain

A single adult female *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae – EPPO A2 List) was found in Oleiros (A Coruña, province Galicia) on 20th June 2025 in a suitcase of a private individual who had taken a direct flight from Milan, Italy to A Coruña airport. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological identification. Eradication measures have been taken according to Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1584. They include intensive surveys in the house where the specimen was found and along the route taken between the airport and the house. Traps have been installed in the vicinity of the house, near the airport, as well as in a golf course and two nurseries located in an area 1 km around the place of the finding and will be checked during the flight season of the pest for one life cycle and an additional year.

The pest status of *Popillia japonica* in Spain is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

Source: NPPO of Spain (2025-07).

EU (2023) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1584 of 1.8.2023 on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory. OJL 194, p. 17–38. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/1584/oj

Pictures *Popillia japonica*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POPIJA/photos

Additional key words: new record, incursion **Computer codes:** POPIJA, ES

2025/168 Incursion of *Popillia japonica* in France

The NPPO of France recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae– EPPO A2 List) on its territory.
Two male beetles were caught in traps in Haut-Rhin department (Alsace, Grand Est region), installed as part of the official surveys for this pest. One beetle was trapped on July 1st 2025, in a trap near a rail freight station, the second on July 2nd close to a highway linking France to Switzerland. As a consequence, an intensified survey was conducted around the findings, with additional traps were installed within a 1.5 km radius. All traps have been inspected twice a week. As of July 16th, no further beetles have been caught around these locations. It is therefore considered that these two findings do not constitute an outbreak, but rather that the beetles were likely a hitchhiker originating from outbreak areas. No demarcated areas have been established.
Public awareness activities have been carried out (press release, distribution of leaflets).

A delimited area exists in France (also in the Haut-Rhin department) as part of the buffer zone for an outbreak in Basel (Switzerland). On July 16th, one beetle was trapped in this buffer zone. Surveillance was intensified in the area.

The pest status of *Popillia japonica* in France is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of France (2025-07).

Pictures *Popillia japonica*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POPIJA/photos

Additional key words: incursion, new record **Computer codes:** POPIJA, FR

2025/169 Update on the situation of *Popillia japonica* in Slovenia

In Slovenia *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae– EPPO A2 List) was first detected in 2024: one adult was found in a trap at a highway petrol station in Lukovica (Central Slovenia) on July 10th 2024 (EPPO RS 2024/149). Five additional beetles were caught in the same or a nearby pheromone trap by the end of August 2024. In addition two beetles were caught in a trap at the highway station Barje in Ljubljana (Central Slovenia) in mid-July and early September 2024. Visual inspections were carried out within a radius of 100 m and 1 km of the traps and did not detect damage on host plants. It was therefore considered that the beetles were likely hitchhikers originating from outbreak areas. No demarcated areas were established.

At the beginning of July 2025 11 beetles of *P. japonica* were caught in 3 traps (out of 10 traps) surrounding the highway station in Lukovica and 8 beetles in 5 different traps (out of 8 traps) placed in the surrounding area of highway station Barje in Ljubljana and 1 beetle at the highway station Dul in Novo Mesto (South-Eastern Slovenia). Five additional pheromone traps were placed in the area surrounding these findings. No damage on host plants was observed during visual inspections in the surrounding area. A demarcated area has been established in Lukovica and in Ljubljana in line with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1584 and eradication measures will be implemented. Public awareness activities have been carried out (media release, distribution of leaflets).

The pest status of *Popillia japonica* in Slovenia is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Source: NPPO of Slovenia (2025-07).

A map of the demarcated area is available at https://www.gov.si/podrocja/kmetijstvo-gozdarstvo-in-prehrana/varstvo-rastlin/zdravje-rastlin/bolezni-in-skodljivci-rastlin/japonski-hrosc/

EU (2023) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1584 of 1.8.2023 on measures to prevent the establishment and spread of *Popillia japonica* Newman and on measures for the eradication and containment of that pest within certain demarcated areas of the Union territory. OJL 194, p. 17–38. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/1584/oj

Pictures *Popillia japonica*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POPIJA/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** POPIJA, Si

2025/170 Update on the situation of *Popillia japonica* in Switzerland

In Switzerland, *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae - EPPO A2 List) was found for the first time in June 2017 in Ticino, close to the outbreak area in Italy (EPPO RS 2017/160, RS 2019/157, RS 2020/167, RS 2021/104). In 2023 two outbreaks were detected in the canton of Valais and Zürich (RS 2023/184) and a few adult specimens were caught in traps in other cantons. In 2024 surveys were conducted in all cantons and in Liechtenstein. Isolated beetles were trapped in the cantons of Aargau, Luzern, Grisons, Schaffhausen, Ticino, Uri, Valais, and Zürich, outside of the demarcated areas. Many of these captures were recorded along or near transport routes (road and rail) and beetles were considered as hitchhikers. Small outbreaks were detected in the cantons of Basel-Landschaft/Basel-Stadt, Solothurn, and

Schwyz as well as in another area of Valais. Official measures were applied and public awareness activities have been carried out.
In 2025, surveys have been intensified in cantons where specimens had already been caught in traps. At the end of June, one specimen was caught in a trap in the canton of Geneva and another one in the canton on Luzern. They are considered as hitchhikers.

The pest status of *Popillia japonica* in Switzerland is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under eradication, under containment, in case eradication is impossible**

Source: NPPO of Switzerland (2025-07). https://www.blw.admin.ch/fr/scarabee-japonais-organisme-nuisible

A map of the demarcated area is available at popillia.agroscope.ch

Pictures *Popillia japonica*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/POPIJA/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** POPIJA, CH, LI

2025/171 Update on the situation of *Aromia bungii* in Italy

In Italy, *Aromia bungii* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae – EPPO A2 List) was first found in Campania region in 2012 (EPPO RS 2012/204) and in Lombardia region in 2013 (RS 2013/187), Lazio region in 2020 (RS 2020/191) and Toscana region in 2023 (RS 2024/126). Official measures have been applied according to Implementing Decision (EU) 2018/1503, aiming at containment in Campania and Lombardia and eradication in Lazio and Toscana (RS 2021/035, RS 2022/210, RS 2024/126). The NPPO of Italy provided the EPPO Secretariat with an update of the situation following surveys in 2023 and 2024.

- **Campania**

Following surveys in 2023, *A. bungii* was found for the first time on 7 infested *Prunus* sp. plants in the municipality of Ischia and infestations were found on *Prunus* sp. plants in the buffer zones of infested zones in Arzano and Portici municipalities. The infested areas were updated and all infested plants were felled and destroyed.

During the surveys in 2024, further infested *Prunus* sp. trees were found in previously pest free areas between three existing outbreaks in the municipalities of Napoli, Castel Volturno and Salerno. As a result, the demarcated area for all three outbreaks has been merged. Containment measures have been applied according to Decision (EU) 2018/1503.

- **Lombardia**

A. bungii was first found in Lombardia in the province of Milano in 2013 (RS 2013/187) and in May 2019 containment measures were enacted according to Regulation (EU) 2018/1503. More than 22 000 plants were monitored in each year from 2022-2024. The total number of infested plants was 26 in 2022, 10 in 2023 and 12 in 2024. From December 2022 the aim of the phytosanitary measures was changed from containment to eradication. Following surveys in 2024, the infested area was again reduced to 189 ha. Eradication measures according to Regulation (EU) 2018/1503 are ongoing.

A map for the infested area in Lombardia can be accessed here: https://www.geoportale.regione.lombardia.it/

- **Lazio**

A. bungii was first found in private gardens in the municipality of Civitavecchia in 2020 and eradication measures were applied (RS 2020/191). Intensive surveys in 2021 and 2022 found no further infestations (RS 2021/035, RS 2022/210). In June 2023, an adult specimen of *A. bungii* was caught in a private garden in the buffer zone of the original infestation alongside a plum tree (*P. domestica)* showing signs of *A. bungii* infestation. An almond tree (*P. dulcis)* with signs of *A. bungii* infestation was found on a private property near the insect finding. Molecular testing confirmed the presence of *A. bungii* on both symptomatic trees. The infested area has been increased, and the two symptomatic trees and four nearby *Prunus* sp. trees were felled. Eradication measures are ongoing.

- **Toscana**

A. bungii was first found in the municipality of Rosignano Marittimo (Livorno province) in 2023 and surveys delimited an infested area covering 54.94 ha (RS 2024/126). During surveys in 2024, further 221 *Prunus* sp. plants were found to be infested and as of June 2025 the infested area has been increased to 118 ha Eradication measures are ongoing.

A map for the infested area in Toscana can be accessed here:
https://fitosirt.regione.toscana.it/mod_fitosirt_cartopublic_new

The pest status of *Aromia bungii* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under eradication, under containment in case eradication is impossible.**

Source:	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 NPPO of Italy (2023-02, 2023-08, 2024-02, 2024-12, 2025-02, 2025-06). Regione Campania (2025) Cerambicide delle Drupacee - *Aromia bungii* https://agricoltura.regione.campania.it/difesa/aromia.html Giunta Regionale della Campania (2024) Decreto Dirigenziale N^{O} 205 of 22/11/2024. Aggiornamento delimitazione focolaio "*Aromia bungii*" in Campania. Fusione focolaio di Castel Volturno (CE) con quello di Napoli. Available at: https://agricoltura.regione.campania.it/difesa/files/DRD_205-22-11-24.pdf
Pictures	*Aromia bungii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AROMBU/photos

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

2025/172 Update on the situation of *Unaspis citri* in the Azores

In Portugal, *Unaspis citri* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae, EPPO A1 List) was known to occur in São Miguel Island in the Azores (EPPO RS 1999/037) and was first detected in October 2022 in Santa Maria Island (RS 2023/132) and Faial and Graciosa islands in 2023 (RS 2024/011).

The NPPO of Portugal recently provided an update on the situation following surveys conducted in 2024.

- Graciosa Island

U. citri has been found for the first time in Guadalupe parish. This increases the size of the infested area as it had only previously been found in two parishes (Santa Cruz de Graciosa and São Mateus) on Graciosa Island (RS 2024/011).

- São Jorge Island

U. citri was detected for the first time on São Jorge island in November 2024 on a *Citrus* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis* plant in a small orchard in Santo Antão parish.

- Terceira Island

U. citri was detected for the first time on Terceira Island in November 2024 in six samples of *Citrus* sp. and *Citrus* x *limon* plants from small orchards in four parishes in the municipality of Angra do Heroísmo.

The origins of the infestations are not known. In all cases, surveys will be intensified on the islands.

The pest status of *U. citri* in Portugal is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned.**

Source: NPPO of Portugal (2025-06).

Pictures *Unaspis citri*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/UNASCI/photos

Additional key words: new record, detailed record **Computer codes:** UNASCI, PT

2025/173 First report of *Nipaecoccus viridis* on citrus in Türkiye

During a survey in Türkiye in October 2024, 7 adult female specimens of the hibiscus mealybug, *Nipaecoccus viridis* (Hemiptera: Sternorrhyncha: Pseudococcidae) were found to infest *Citrus* sp. plants in citrus plantations in Antalya province (Mediterranean region). *N. viridis* had previously been recorded on *Robinia pseudoacacia* in a greenhouse in Istanbul (Marmara region). This is the first finding in Antalya province and the first finding on *Citrus* sp. in Türkiye. *Nipaecoccus viridis* is a quarantine pest in Türkiye.

The NPPO of Türkiye confirmed to the EPPO Secretariat that *N. viridis* has been identified in Manavgat district, Antalya province. Phytosanitary measures have been applied, including the application of insecticides in the area. A delimiting survey is underway.

In the EPPO region, *N. viridis* is already known to occur in Algeria, Israel, Jordan. The EFSA Plant Health Panel recently conducted a pest categorization for this scale and concluded that it qualified to be considered a quarantine pest by the EU.

The pest status of *Nipaecoccus viridis* is officially declared as: **Present, not widely distributed and under eradication.**

Source: EFSA Panel on Plant Health (2023) Pest categorisation of *Nipaecoccus viridis*. *EFSA Journal* **21**(1), 7770. https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7770

Kaydan MB, Erkiliç L (2025) First report of invasive species *Nipaecoccus viridis* (Newstead) (Hemiptera: Coccomorpha: Pseudococcidae) associated with Citrus plantation in Turkey. *Journal of Insect Biodiversity* **61(1),** 1-8.

NPPO of Türkiye (2025-06).

Ülgentürk S, Ercan C, Yaşar B, Kaydan MB (2025) Checklist of Turkish Coccoidea (Hemiptera: Sternorryncha) species. *Trakya University Journal of Natural Sciences* **23**,113-129 https://doi.org/10.23902/trkjnat.1123152

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

2025/174 First report of *Takahashia japonica* in Belgium

The string cottony scale *Takahashia japonica* (Hemiptera: Coccidae) is first recorded from Belgium. During the annual inspection of a tree nursery in the province of Antwerp, signs of infestation (loop shaped ovisacs) of *Takahashia japonica* were observed on one plot on several Magnolia hybrid trees ('Susan'), that have been planted at this location for several years. A sample was taken and sent to the National Reference Laboratory (ILVO) and the identity of the insect was confirmed. No official measures have been issued by the NPPO of Belgium, in line with the EU decision for this pest. No significant impact on adult plants is recorded.

The pest status of *Takahashia japonica* in Belgium is officially declared as*:* **Present: not widely distributed and not under official control.**

Source: NPPO of Belgium (2025-06).

Pictures *Takahashia japonica*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TAKAJA/photos

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

2025/175 First report of the *Cnestus mutilatus* in Slovenia and update on *Anisandrus maiche* and *Xylosandrus compactus*

Cnestus mutilatus (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae, regulated by the EU as 'non-European Scolytinae') is first reported from Slovenia. This species is native to Asia, and was first reported in the EPPO region in the Russian Far East in 2017 and in Italy in 2021 (EPPO RS 2022/147).
Two specimens were trapped during the national survey of quarantine species in July and August 2024 in oak-dominated forest stands (*Quercus* spp.) at Radmožanci (Pomurska region, north-eastern Slovenia). The authors considers that these findings are not related to the population in Italy because no specimens were detected between the two locations and the specimens in Italy are genetically different, so both populations may result from separate introductions.

An update is provided for *Anisandrus maiche* and *Xylosandrus compactus* (formerly EPPO Alert List) which were first recorded in traps in Slovenia in 2023 (RS 2024/052). *A. maiche* is only present in the eastern part of the country. In 2024 it was recorded in 6 locations compared to 3 in 2023 and the number of specimens trapped increased from 386 to 5603. *X. compactus* was recorded in the same location as in 2023 with again only 3 specimens trapped.

So far, no tree damage in Slovenia has been attributed to these three recently discovered species.

Source: Hauptman T, Capuder L, Devetak Z, De Groot M, Faccoli M, Piškur B (2025) First record of the non-native *Cnestus mutilatus* (Blandford) and further findings of other Xyleborini (Curculionidae, Scolytinae) recently recorded in Slovenia. *Zootaxa* **5653**(1), 143-150.

Pictures *Cnestus mutilatus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLSMU/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ANIDMA, XYLSMU, XYLSCO, SI

2025/176 First report of *Cnestus mutilatus* in Croatia

Cnestus mutilatus (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae – regulated by the EU as 'non-European Scolytinae') is an ambrosia beetle native to Asia. It was first reported from the USA in Mississippi in 2002 (EPPO RS 2005/180) before spreading across the Eastern states of the USA. It has been found in the EPPO region in the Russian Far East and is considered established in Italy (RS 2022/147) and it was recently found in Slovenia (RS 2025/175).

During annual monitoring in 2024 for the presence of *Agrilus auroguttatus* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae – formerly EPPO Alert List), *C. mutilatus* was found in traps placed in Pleternica (Požega-Slavonia county, eastern Croatia). Further sampling in March 2025 found adult specimens of *C. mutilatus* on dead branches of *Fagus sylvatica, Quercus rubra* and *Carpinus betulus* that were exhibiting exit holes and galleries. This is the first time *C. mutilatus* is reported on *F. sylvatica, Q. rubra* and *C. betulus* and the first time that the beetle is found in host plants in the EPPO region. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular tests. It is not known how *C. mutilatus* was introduced into Croatia, but Jukić *et al.* (2025) suggest that a severe weather event in 2023 that caused significant damage to the forest may have encouraged the establishment of *C. mutilatus* which are believed to preferentially establish on dead wood.

Source: Jukić A, Cvetković F, Krcivoj T, Medak J, Zorić N, Ćelepirović N, Matošević D (2025) First record of *Cnestus mutilatus* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) in Croatia. *South-East European Forestry SEEFOR* **16(1)**, 9-14 https://doi.org/10.15177/seefor.25-10

Pictures *Cnestus mutilatus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/XYLSMU/photos

Additional key words: new record, new host plant **Computer codes:** XYLSMU, HR

2025/177 First report of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* in the United Kingdom

The NPPO of the United Kingdom recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first report of the root knot nematode *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* (EPPO A2 List) on its territory. The pest was detected on the 1st of July 2025 in one field in eastern England which was pre-emptively tested for free-living nematodes by the grower, prior to any crop being planted.
Subsequent official sampling and testing has confirmed the presence of *M. chitwoodi*. Eradication measures are being applied, including the removal and destruction of infested plant material - comprised in part of the field of unharvested strawberry (*Fragaria* x *ananassa)* plants and weeds, prohibition of planting hosts in the infested field, cleaning machinery and vehicles leaving the infested field, and enhancement of biosecurity procedures. Trace-back and forward investigations (including sampling and testing) were conducted and showed that the outbreak is limited to one field. Over the next two years, further monitoring and sampling will be carried out in the infested field and margins, to verify the effectiveness of the eradication measures. The results of monitoring will inform the continuing monitoring and eradication measures.

The pest status of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* in the United Kingdom is officially declared as: **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: NPPO of the United Kingdom (2025-07).

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

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

2025/178 Correction concerning the situation of *Ceratocystis platani* in France

An update on the situation of canker stain of plane *Ceratocystis platani* (EPPO A2 List) was prepared by the EPPO Secretariat in February 2025 (EPPO RS 2025/043) where it was noted that containment measures were applied in four regions. However, the NPPO of France has informed us that in France, a number of containment zones have been demarcated in only two regions (Occitanie and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur), where measures are being taken to contain the disease in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1629. The annex to this Regulation lists the communes in these two regions that are now under a containment strategy. In the other demarcated zones of these two regions and in the other regions (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Centre-Val de Loire, Corse, Ile-de-France, Pays de la Loire, Nouvelle-Aquitaine), where *Ceratocystis platani* was detected, eradication measures are applied in accordance with the provisions of the National Decree of January 31, 2025.

An updated map is available at https://agriculture.gouv.fr/le-chancre-colore-du-platane-0

Source: NPPO of France (2025-06).

Arrêté du 31 janvier 2025 relatif à la lutte contre *Ceratocystis platani* (CERAFP) agent pathogène du chancre coloré du platane. https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/eli/arrete/2025/1/31/AGRG2237643A/jo/texte

EU (2022) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1629 of 21 September 2022 establishing measures for the containment of C*eratocystis platani* (J.M. Walter) Engelbr. & T.C. Harr. within certain demarcated areas (OJ L 245, 14, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2022/1629/oj

Pictures *Ceratocystis platani*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERAFP/photos

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

2025/179 *Ralstonia solanacearum* identified on *Rosa* sp. in the Netherlands

During an annual survey in 2018 in the Netherlands, the causal agent of potato brown rot, *Ralstonia solanacearum* (EPPO A2 List) was reported for the first time on asymptomatic roses (*Rosa* sp.) collected from three greenhouses across the Netherlands. Until now, rose was only reported to be a natural host of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* (EPPO A2 List). In experiments, the isolates from roses caused severe symptoms on potato plants. The authors suggest that roses could act as a reservoir for *R. solanacearum*, which is known to spread through surface water.

Source: Blom NI, Gorkink-Smits PP, Landman NM, van de Bilt JL, Vogelaar MA, Raaymakers TM, Visser M, Pel MJ, Bergsma-Vlami M (2024) *Ralstonia solanacearum* (phylotype II) isolated from *Rosa* spp. in the Netherlands is closely related to phylotype II isolates from other sources in the Netherlands and is virulent on potato. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **171,** 445-458. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10658-024-02960-8

Additional key words: new host **Computer codes:** RALSSL, NL

2025/180 New reports of plum viruses and viroids in India

In India, a recent scientific article explored viral and viroid infections of plum (*Prunus domestica*) in Jammu & Kashmir state. Leaves of *P. domestica* showing mosaic and necrotic symptoms were collected from experimental field sites in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir in May 2022. Plum bark necrosis stem pitting-associated virus (*Ampelovirus pruni*, PBNSPaV), little cherry virus 1 (*Velarivirus nanoavii*, LChV1 - EU RNQP), American plum line pattern virus (*Ilarvirus APLPV* – EPPO A1 List), prunus necrotic ringspot virus (*Ilarvirus PNRSV* – EU RNQP), apple chlorotic leaf spot virus (*Trichovirus mali*, ACLSV – EU RNQP) and hop stunt viroid (*Hostuviroid impedihumuli*, HSVd – EU RNQP) were identified in leaf samples through high-throughput sequencing and validated by RT-PCR. This is the first report of PBNSPaV, LChV1, APLPV, PNRSV, ACLSV and HSVd in the state of Jammu & Kashmir and the first report of APLPV in India.

Source: Khan ZA, Thapa P, Diksha D, Mailem YS, Sharma SK, Nabi SU, Wani S, Shah MD, Verma MK, Gupta N, Baranwal VK (2025) Virome analysis deciphered the infection of American plum line pattern virus, little cherry virus 1 and plum bark necrosis stem pitting-associated virus in plum from India. *European Journal of Plant Pathology* **171**, 341–357

Pictures *Ilarvirus APLPV*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/APLPV0/photos
Ilarvirus PNRSV. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PNRSV0/photos
Trichovirus mali. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ACLSV0/photos
Velarivirus nanoavii. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LCHV10/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** LCHV10, PBNSPA, APLPV0, PNRSV0, ACLSV0, HSVD00, IN

2025/181 Bidens mottle virus, an emerging pest of sunflower in South Africa

In South Africa, during a study on optimal planting date for sunflower (*Helianthus annuus)* conducted in the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 growing seasons in Gauteng Province and North West Province unusual leaf and floral symptoms typical of viral infection were observed. Symptoms included leaf chlorosis, curl, mottle, rugosity, plant stunting, flower abortion, and significantly reduced yield. RNA sequencing and RT-PCR determined the presence of bidens mottle virus (*Potyvirus bidenstessellati,* BiMoV) in symptomatic plants. This is the first record of BiMoV in South Africa and the second report of natural infection of BiMoV in *H. annuus*. BiMoV has a wide host range and Mapfumo *et al*. (2025) suggest that weeds near fields, including blackjack (*Bidens pilosa)* could be reservoirs for crop infection.

BiMoV has previously only been reported in the USA, Taiwan and Brazil. It has a wide host range, affecting many members of the Asteraceae, Brassicaceae and Fabaceae families. BiMoV is a widespread potyvirus that is vectored by aphids.BiMoV has been reported to cause significant losses for some ornamental and horticultural crops including lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) and endive (*Cichorium endivia*).

Source: Mapfumo P, Archer E, Swanevelder DZ, Wilken M, Creux NM, Read D (2025) Genomic characterisation of Bidens mottle virus in South Africa and an assessment of the impact on *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) in an open field setting. *Plant Pathology* **74(5),** 1266-1276 https://doi.org/10.1111/ppa.14089

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** BIMOV0, ZA

2025/182 New biological control agents added to PM 6/3(5) in 2025

In 2025, three new biological control agents were added to the EPPO Standard PM 6/3(5).

Addition to Appendix 1: Commercially or officially used biological control agents

Aeolothrips intermedius (Thysanoptera: Aeolothripidae) is an augmentative biological control agent indigenous to the EPPO region. It is a biological control agent of around forty different thrips species (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) including *Frankliniella* spp., *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis*, *Odontothrips confusus*, *Thrips tabaci*. *A. intermedius* is commercially available in the EPPO region. There are no reports of adverse effects.

Nephus includens (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) is an augmentative biological control agent of various mealybug species (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus, Phenacoccus solenopsis, Planococcus citri*, *Pl. ficus, Pseudococcus longispinus*) and it is indigenous to the EPPO region. It is commercially available in the EPPO region. There are no reports of adverse effects.

Addition to Appendix 2: Classical biological control agents successfully established in the EPPO region

Torymus sinensis (Hymenoptera: Torymidae) is a natural enemy of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae, EPPO A2 List) and is native to China. *T. sinensis* is a classical biological control agent and is established in the EPPO region for at least five years. In the EPPO region there are no reports of adverse effects.

Source:	EPPO (2021) PM 6/3 Biological control agents safely used in the EPPO region. *EPPO Bulletin*, **51** 452-454.
Pictures	*Aeolothrips intermedius*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AEOOIN/photos *Nephus includens*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/NEPUIN/photos *Torymus sinensis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TORYSI/photos

Additional key words: Biocontrol

EPPO code: 1FRANG, AEOOIN, DRYCKU, HELTHA, ODOTCO, PHENHI, PHENSO, PSECCI, PLANFI, PSECAD, THRITB, TORYSI

2025/183 XVII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds (Rotorua, NZ, 2026-03-8/13)

The XVII International Symposium on Biological Control of Weeds will be held in Rotorua, New Zealand from the 8th to the 13th of March 2026. Topics will include:

- Taxonomy and weed biological control,
- Target and agent selection,
- Release and establishment,
- Climate change and weed biological control,
- Post-release monitoring and evaluation, including social and economic assessments,
- Integrated weed biological control with other weed management methods and post-control restoration,
- Bioherbicides,

- Using ecological science and modelling to make classical biological control of weeds more predictive,
- Regulations,
- Classical biological control in developing countries including small island states/nations,
- Classical biological control in developed countries,
- Community engagement and education,
- Weed biological control and involvement of indigenous communities,
- Why classical weed biocontrol and bioherbicides remain a side-show in global weed management,
- Novel methods for classical biocontrol,
- New technologies and their application to weed biocontrol.

Abstract and workshop submissions are currently open.

Conference website: https://isbcw-rotorua.com/

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2025-07)

Additional key words: Biocontrol, conference

2025/184 *Acalypha australis* in the EPPO region: addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why
Acalypha australis (Euphorbiaceae) is recorded in a few EPPO countries. The species has the potential to cause economic impacts in agricultural systems in the EPPO region. The Panel on Invasive Alien Plants have added *Acalypha australis* to the Alert List with the aim to collect further information on established populations and evidence of impact.

Geographical distribution
EPPO region: Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Italy (including Sicily), Russian Federation (Far East*), Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Asia: China* (except Xinjiang), Iraq, Japan*, Korea* (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea* (Republic of), Laos*, Philippines*, Vietnam*
North America: USA (Iowa, New York)
Oceania: Australia (New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria)
* = Native range

Morphology
Acalypha australis is a short plant growing up to 50 cm. Leaves oblong to lanceolate 3-9 × 1-5 cm. Male inflorescences 1–2 cm long. Female flowers 1 or 2, concealed within each bract approximately 10–15 mm in diameter. The peduncle is approximately 10 mm long. Fruit are approximately 3 mm in diameter. Seeds are subovoid, 1.5-2 mm, smooth.

Biology and Ecology
Acalypha australis is an annual erect species which can produce up to 300 seeds per plant. Plant grows on light (sandy), medium (loamy), and heavy (clay) soils. It can grow in acidic, neutral, and alkaline soils. In Asia, *A. australis* is considered a medicinal plant that can cure various ailments.

Habitats
In the EPPO region, *A. australis* is present along road embankments and in waste lands. In the USA (Iowa), *A. australis* is reported in agricultural areas, in particular maize fields where its occurrence has increased since its initial finding in 2016. There are also reports that it can grow in grasslands, wooded habitats and along riverbanks. *A. australis* has the potential to invade a variety of habitats in the EPPO region.

Pathways for movement
Acalypha australis can be spread as a seed and grain contaminant. Additionally, *A. australis* has the potential to spread via agricultural practises including movement of machinery and equipment. Natural spread via seed can promote local spread of the species.

Impacts
Acalypha australis can cause economic losses in a number of crops including cotton, maize, root and tuberous crops, and vegetables. In China, *A. australis* can grow in maize at densities of 10 to 100 plants m^{-2}.

Control
There is little information on the control of *A. australis*. There are reports that *A. australis* is resistant to glyphosate and group 14 herbicides. In some habitats, hand-pulling and mechanical control can be successful in controlling small populations.

Source: Abdiyeva RT, Litvinskaya SA (2021) New locations and distribution of the alien species *Acalipha australis* L. (Euforbiaceae) in Azerbaijan. *Plant & Fungal Research* **4**, 19-2

Makhkamov T, Kortz A, Hejda M, Brundu G, Pyšek P (2024) Naturalized alien flora of Uzbekistan: species richness, origin and habitats. *Biological Invasions* **26**, 2819–2830.

Mamchur T, Shynder O, Chorna H, Doiko N, Kabar A, Kalashnik K, Parubok M, Levon A, Baranovsky B, Karmyzova L, Lyubinska L, Zhuravlova T, Shevera M (2023) The genus *Acalypha* (Euphorbiaceae) in Ukraine. *Journal of Native and Alien Plant Studies* 19, 78-94

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

USDA (2012) Weed Risk Assessment for *Acalypha australis* L. (Euphorbiaceae) – Asian copperleaf. United States Department of Agriculture, Version 2

Pictures *Acalypha australis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ACCAU/photos

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

2025/185 Prioritization of alien plant taxa for EPPO Pest Risk Analysis

In 2024/25, the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants conducted a horizon scanning study. Experts from the Panel suggested alien taxa for prioritization for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) from their country or sub-region based on two criteria: (1) taxa were not already on any of the EPPO lists, (2) there are known negative impacts on plant health or the environment or the species shows invasive behaviour (spread outside of planted area/spread into agricultural habitats, forms monospecific stands, etc.). This initial work resulted in a list of 89 plant taxa, and this list was further reduced by a consensus ranking based on (1) the species is not a priority for prioritization or (2) the species is a priority for prioritization. This resulted in a list of 25 plant taxa which were prioritized using the EPPO Standard PM 5/6 *EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants*. The results of the prioritization work included six plant taxa being added to the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants, 16 plant taxa being added to the EPPO Observation List of Invasive Alien Plants and three species being added to the List of Minor Concern. Of the six plant taxa included on the List of Invasive Alien Plants, three were considered a priority for PRA. The Panel further assessed the literature for these three species and concluded that a PRA should be conducted on *Senecio angulatus* in 2026. *S. angulatus* is a prolific climbing perennial species native to South Africa. It can spread by seed and stem fragments and has the ability to form dense infestations in open and disturbed habitats, where it negatively impacts native biodiversity and ecosystem services. It can grow in open woodland where it can have a negative impact on tree regeneration.

Table 1. Twenty-five species prioritized using the EPPO Prioritization Process (PM 5/6)

Species	Family	Origin	EPPO List	Priority for PRA
Acacia pycnantha	Fabaceae	Australia	Obs.	
Agave fourcroydes	Asparagaceae	Americas	Minor	
Artemisia verlotiorum	Asteraceae	Asia	Obs.	
Arundo donax	Poaceae	Asia	L IAP	
Austrocylindropuntia subulata	Cactaceae	S. America	Minor	

Bothriochloa barbinodis	Poaceae	Americas	Obs.	
Cenchrus longisetus	Poaceae	Africa, Asia	Obs.	
Chasmanthe floribunda	Iridaceae	South Africa	Obs.	
Claytonia perfoliata	Montiaceae	N. America	Obs.	
Dactyloctenium aegyptium	Poaceae	Africa, Asia	Obs.	
Eleocharis bonariensis	Cyperaceae	Americas	Obs.	
Leucaena leucocephala subsp. *glabrata*	Fabaceae	Americas	L IAP	Yes (High)
Lonicera japonica	Caprifoliaceae	Asia	Obs.	
Melia azedarach	Meliaceae	Asia, Oceania	Obs.	
Paraserianthes lophantha subsp. *lophantha*	Fabaceae	Australia	Obs.	
Parkinsonia aculeata	Fabaceae	Americas	L IAP	
Pterocarya fraxinifolia	Juglandaceae	C. Asia	L IAP	Yes (High)
Salpichroa origanifolia	Solanaceae	S. America	Obs.	
Senecio angulatus	Asteraceae	South Africa	L IAP	Yes (High)
Sinacalia tangutica	Asteraceae	Asia	Obs.	
Spiraea alba	Rosaceae	N. America	Obs.	
Spiraea japonica	Rosaceae	Asia	Obs.	
Telekia speciosa	Asteraceae	Europe	Obs.	
Zantedeschia aethiopica	Araceae	South Africa	Minor	
Zea mexicana	Poaceae	N. America	L IAP	

Where L IAP = EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants; Minor = EPPO List of Minor concern; Obs. = EPPO Observation List of Invasive Alien Plants.

Source: EPPO Global Database: https://gd.eppo.int/
EPPO (2012) PM 5/6 EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants. *EPPO Bulletin* **43**, 463-474. https://doi.org/10.1111/epp.2592

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant

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

2025/186 Global changes in the distribution of *Bidens pilosa* as an effect of climate change

Bidens pilosa (Asteraceae) is an annual species native to the Americas and reported as an invasive alien plant species in many tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world where it causes negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It can also invade agricultural areas where it has significant negative impacts on crop yields. It is regulated in a number of EPPO countries including Azerbaijan (A1), Belarus (Quarantine pest), Jordan (A2), Kazakhstan (A1), the Russian Federation (A1) and Ukraine (A1). The future global distribution of *B. pilosa* was modelled based on various climate change scenarios. Distribution data was collected from online sources and scientific publications, and from field surveys conducted in 2022-2023. Bioclimatic variables, including 19 derived from monthly temperature and precipitation records, along with elevation data, were obtained from the WorldClim 2.1 database. Future climate projections were based on Shared Socioeconomic Pathways and included two timelines (2041–2060 and 2081–2100) and four scenarios with the lowest (SSP126) being the most optimistic scenario for climate change and the highest being the worst case scenario (SSP585). The results showed range expansion

for the 2041–2060 period in all four scenarios and indicate range expansion in Argentina, Brazil, Congo (Republic of), Poland, Ukraine, the north-east of China, and the north-west of the USA. In the period 2081–2100, under the scenario SSP126 more areas in Europe become suitable for *B. pilosa*. Overall, the results show a decline in tropical regions and an expansion into temperate regions, with climate suitability decreasing under higher temperatures.

Source: Fan L, Mi C, Li J, Zhang Y, Zhang H, Zhang G, Wang H (2025) Projecting global shifts in the invasive potential of *Bidens pilosa* L. under climate change using species distribution models. *Frontiers in Plant Science* **16**,1580278. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2025.1580278

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant, climate change **Computer codes:** BIDPI