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2025/206 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**

'Candidatus Phytoplasma mali' (associated with apple proliferation, EPPO A2 List), and *'Candidatus* Phytoplasma pyri' (associated with pear decline - EPPO A2 List) are first reported from Luxembourg. Surveys were conducted in April to July 2024 in six sites. Apple trees tested positive for '*Ca*. P. mali' at three sites (Bech, Bettembourg, Mensdorf) and pear trees tested positive for '*Ca*. P. pyri' at two sites (Bech, Manternach). The authors consider that both phytoplasmas are probably widespread in the country (Weigand *et al.*, 2025). **Present, widely distributed**.

Diaphorina citri (Hemiptera: Liviidae, EPPO A1 List), one of the vectors of huanglongbing, is first reported from Fiji. A survey was conducted in the Koronivia area and detected *D. citri*. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular tests. The pest is present in Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Huanglongbing disease was not detected (IPPC, 2025). The pest status of *Diaphorina citri* in Fiji is officially declared as: **Present: transient**.

In French Guyana, after the finding of *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Liviidae, EPPO A1 List) in July 2021 (EPPO RS 2021/185), further surveys detected a '*Candidatus* Liberibacter sp.' in two plant samples in August 2021 (RS 2021/207). Further surveys were conducted in 2022-2024 and 40 plant samples tested positive for Liberibacter sp. although it was not possible to identify the species. In November 2024, a field survey was conducted and *'Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' (EPPO A1 List) was detected in one sample from a citrus tree growing in a private courtyard in Kourou municipality (Cellier et al., 2025). **Present**, **not widely distributed and not under official control**.

Pseudococcus comstocki (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae - formerly A2 EPPO List) is first recorded outdoors from Hungary. During surveys conducted in 2020-2021 with pheromone traps placed along the highway network, male *P. comstocki* were caught in seven traps in six localities. This currently represents the northernmost outdoor distribution data of *P. comstocki* in Europe (Szita *et al.*, 2025). **Present, not widely distributed and not under official control**.

In Vietnam, three *Tetranychus* species (Acari: Tetranychidae) are reported for the first time. *Tetranychus evansi* (EPPO A2 List), *Tetranychus puerariicola* and *Tetranychus gloveri* were recorded during a study on populations of thrips and spider mites conducted between 2021 and 2023 in the Red River Delta subregion of Northern Vietnam. The identity of the pests was confirmed by molecular testing. **Present.**

Tetranychus evansi (Acari: Tetranychidae - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Mexico. It was observed in 2020 and 2023 in four municipalities in three states (Baja California, Nuevo León and Tamaulipas), on solanaceous plants: tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum)* and potato (*S. tuberosum*) crops, and wild plants (*S.* cf. *americanum* and *S. nigrescens)* (Monjarás *et al.*, 2024). **Present, not widely distributed.**

Tomato mottle mosaic virus (*Tobamovirus maculatessellati,* ToMMV – formerly EPPO Alert List) is first reported in Indonesia. It was found for the first time in November 2023 in Java Province. During monitoring of diseases on tomato plants (*Solanum lycopersicum)* in fields and greenhouses in Kediri and Malang districts, ToMMV was found on plants showing mosaic,

yellowing and leaf curling. The identity of the pest was confirmed by molecular testing. **Present, not widely distributed.**

- **Detailed records**

Atherigona orientalis (Diptera: Muscidae - EPPO Alert List) is reported from Hunan (China). It was detected infesting fruits of several species during surveys in 2020-2022 in all 14 prefectural and municipal cities of Hunan. Zhou et al. (2025) also mentions the presence of *A. orientalis* in the provinces of Fujian and Ningxia for which the EPPO Secretariat had no previous records. During the same study, other fruit flies were also found, including *Bactrocera latifrons* (EPPO A1 List) for which the EPPO Secretariat had no record for Hunan province. **Present.**

In Brazil *Ceratobasidium theobromae* (syn. *Rhizoctonia theobromae)* causing cassava witch's broom was first recorded in the state of Amapá in 2023 (EPPO RS 2025/048). In 2025, it was first recorded in the state of Pará on cassava. Official emergency measures are applied in Amapá and Pará (Embrapa, 2025). **Present, not widely distributed and under official control**.

In India cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus (*Crinivirus cucurbitae*, CYSDV - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Rajasthan on Indian round melon (*Benincasa fistulosa*) and wild melon (*Cucumis callosus*) (Kumar *et al.*, 2025). It was also first detected in Southern India, in Tamil Nadu, during a survey in November 2023 to July 2024, on new hosts: ridge gourd (*Luffa acutangula)*, snake gourd (*Trichosanthes cucumerina*) and bottle gourd *(Lagenaria siceraria)* (Bharath et al., 2025). These reports increase both the geographical range and the host range of CYSDV. **Present, not widely distributed and under official control**.

Grapevine phylloxera *Daktulosphaira vitifoliae* (Hemiptera: Phylloxeridae - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Islas Canarias (Spain). It was detected in August 2025 in Tenerife Island in a private garden and an area of partially abandoned land in La Laguna. Official measures are being applied to eradicate the outbreak (Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, 2025). **Present, not widely distributed and under official control**.

In Italy, the pine tortoise scale *Toumeyella parvicornis* (Hemiptera: Coccidae – EPPO A2 List) was found again in Abruzzo region on stone pines (*Pinus pinea*). It was discovered in July and August 2025 in Chieti province (mild infestation in a private garden on *P. pinea* in San Giovanni Teatino municipality and a severe infestation in a public site in Chieti municipality in August 2025). Phytosanitary measures have been applied including the establishment of a buffer zone of 5 km around the infested areas and enhanced surveys and official actions in line with the Regional Emergency Plan.
The pest status of *Toumeyella parvicornis* in Italy is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of the Member State concerned, under containment, in case eradication is impossible.**

In Oklahoma (US), *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* (EPPO A2 List) was detected for the first time in 2024 on American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*) plants showing mild to severe leaf scorch symptoms grown in Oklahoma State University. The identity of the pest was confirmed by molecular testing. **Present.**

- **New host plants**

In Shandong Province, China, tomato brown fruit rugose virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum* - ToBRFV - EPPO A2 List) was found infecting mile-a-minute *Persicaria perfoliata* (Polygonaceae: EPPO A2 List) exhibiting leaf chlorosis symptoms grown in a greenhouse in May 2024. This is the first report of ToBRFV natural infection in *P. perfoliata*.

Sources: Bharath BS, Nagendran K, Harish S, Karthikeyan G (2025) First report of cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus causing yellowing disease on major gourds in India. *Crop Protection* 187, 106998. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cropro.2024.106998

Cellier G, Demade-Pellorce L, Chourrot A, Chou Ket Kime S, Lau Txia Neng K, Thomas A, Moreau A, Gustin L, Chabirand A, Macambou A, Hierso D, Durand S, Laplace D, Donato D, Lavergne A, Douaré F, Duperier S, Ravigné V, Ouvrard D (2025) First report of *Diaphorina citri* and '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' associated with the Huanglongbing disease on Citrus spp. in French Guiana. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-02-25-0330-PDN.

Embrapa (2025-07-07) Embrapa e ministérios montam estratégias para enfrentar vassoura-de-bruxa da mandioca no Amapá e Pará. https://www.embrapa.br/busca-de-noticias/-/noticia/101704837/embrapa-e-ministerios-montam-estrategias-para-enfrentar-vassoura-de-bruxa-da-mandioca-no-amapa-e-para

IPPC website. Official Pest Reports- Fiji (2025-09-22): Asian Citrus Psyllid - Diaphorina citri. https://www.ippc.int/fr/countries/fiji/pestreports/2025/09/asian-citrus-psyllid/

Jibrin MO, Olson J, Andrade Y, Chen J (2025) First report of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* associated with bacterial leaf scorch on American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis* L.) in Oklahoma. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-03-25-0590-PDN

Kumar A, Choudhary S, Ramyashee DG, Baranwal VK, Jain RK, Basavaraj YB (2025) Molecular evidence for the occurrence of cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus (CYSDV) infecting round melon and wild melon in India. *VirusDisease* **36**(1), 93-96.

Kwak HR, Byun HS, Lee B, Yu J (2025) First report of tomato mottle mosaic virus infecting tomato in Indonesia. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-06-25-1177-PDN

Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación (2025) Orden APA/959/2025, de 29 de agosto, por la que se adoptan medidas fitosanitarias de salvaguardia en relación con la Daktulosphaira vitifoliae Fitch (Filoxera de la Vid), en las Islas Canarias. *Boletín Oficial Del Estado* 209, Sec. III, 115595. https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2025/08/30/pdfs/BOE-A-2025-17386.pdf

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Monjarás-Barrera JI, Sanchez-Peña SR (2024) First record of the tomato red spider mite, *Tetranychus evansi* Baker and Pritchard (Acari: Tetranychidae) in Mexico, from cultivated and wild solanaceous plants. *Acarologia* 64(1), 164-171. ttps://doi.org/10.24349/78jc-6nev

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Wang D, Wu Y, Cao Y, Yan Y, Ding T, Tian Y, Rao S, Li J, Song X (2025) First report of mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata* L.) as a natural host of tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV). *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-12-24-2662-PDN

Weigand A, Rapisarda C, Kharrat-Jarboui I, Ripamonti M (2025) First detection of apple proliferation and pear decline phytoplasmas in Luxembourg. *EPPO Bulletin* 55(2), 320-327.

Zhou Z, Luo Y, Qin J, Wang X, Ning S, He J, Zhou Q (2025) Occurrence, biological characteristics, and annual dynamics of *Atherigona orientalis* (Schiner 1968)(Diptera: Muscidae) in China. *Insects* 16(9), 931. https://doi.org/10.3390/insects16090931

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

Computer codes: APNMV0, ATHEOR, CYSDV0, DACULA, DIAACI, LIBEAS, ONCOTH, PHYPMA, PHYPPY, POLPF, PSECCO, PSYLCO, TETREV, TETRGL, TETRPU, TOBRFV, TOMMVO, TOUMPA, VITEVI, XYLEFA, XYLEFM, BR, CN, ES, FJ, GF, HU, ID, IN, IT, LU, MX, US, VN

2025/207 Situation of several regulated pests in Serbia

The NPPO of Serbia recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the changes of official pest status for a number of regulated pests. The official pest status is mentioned in bold for each species.

'*Candidatus* Phytoplasma solani' (EPPO A2 List) occurs in several crops (maize, grapevine, potato, sugar beet). Note that only the genotype 16SrXII-A occurs. **Present, widely distributed.**

'*Candidatus* Phytoplasma ulmi' (EPPO A1 List) is present in Serbia (EPPO RS 2009/217). It is found on *Ulmus minor* and *Ulmus laevis* in forest but does not cause permanent damage to *Ulmus* trees. **Present, not widely distributed and not under official control.**

***Alternaria mali* (EPPO A1 List):** previous records were based on morphological tests. A survey in 2013-2017 confirmed that there are no AM-toxin producing isolates that could be *Alternaria mali*. **Absent, confirmed by survey**

Apple mosaic virus (*Ilarvirus ApMV,* EU RNQP): present on apples and hazelnuts but multiannual surveys on *Rubus* demonstrated absence on *Rubus* plants for planting**. Absent on *Rubus*, confirmed by survey.**

Apple stem grooving virus (*Capillovirus mali,* ASGV, EU RNQP) occurs on apple plants. **Present, not widely distributed.**

***Ceratitis capitata* (Diptera: Tephritidae - EPPO A2 List):** official surveys have been carried out since 2005. Isolated specimens were trapped in 2010, 2018, 2021 and 2024 but subsequent surveys did not detect the pest. It is considered that those isolated findings are linked to import of infested fruits. **Absent, intercepted only.**

Cherry leaf roll virus (*Nepovirus avii*, CLRV, EU RNQP)**: Absent on *Rubus*, confirmed by survey.**

Cherry necrotic rusty mottle virus (*Robigovirus necroavii*, EU RNQP)**:** first recorded in cherry in 2005. Presence confirmed by official surveys. **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

***Dickeya dianthicola* (EPPO A2 List):** an outbreak on potato occurred in 2018 and 2019 in three fields in the Bačka region. Eradication measures were implemented. No other outbreak has been recorded to date. **Absent, pest eradicated**.

***Globodera pallida* (EPPO A2 List**): one outbreak in 2005 in a field in Ogradjenik. Considered eradicated since 2022**. Absent, pest eradicated.**

***Liriomyza huidobrensis* (Diptera: Agromyzidae – EPPO A2 List):** a previous record was in a publication of 2005 about pests found in the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro without details. Official surveys up to 2011 have never detected the pest. Since 2011 only intercepted twice during import inspections. **Absent, pest not recorded.**

***Paraburkholderia caryophylli* (EPPO A2 List):** previous records refer to old data from the periods of the former Yugoslavia and the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro. No recent records for the territory of Serbia. **Absent, old record.**

Pepino mosaic virus (*Potexvirus pepini*, PepMV, EPPO A2 List): surveys conducted since 2005. First detected in 2019 on tomato (EPPO RS 2021/063). Eradication measures were applied. The pest has not been detected since. **Absent, pest eradicated.**

***Phialophora cinerescens* (EPPO A2 List):** a previous record refers to data originating from the period of the former Yugoslavia **Absent, old record, no longer valid.**

Phyllocnistis citrella (Lepidoptera, Gracillariidae): a previous record exists in a publication of 2005 about pests found in the former State Union of Serbia and Montenegro without details. No other record in Serbia. **Absent, pest not recorded.**

***Ralstonia solanacearum* (EPPO A2 List):** targeted annual surveys have been conducted since 2005 and have not detected the pest in water samples, tomato plants or solanaceous host plants other than potato. In 2010 *R. solanacearum* was detected in five lots of ware potatoes produced in western Serbia associated with imported seed potatoes. This outbreak was eradicated. In 2011 *R. solanacearum* was detected in samples of ware potato tubers from northern Serbia (Srednje-Banatski and Zapadno-Bački districts). From 2011 to 2021 there were repeated positive findings of *R. solanacearum* in ware potato in northern Serbia. Eradication measures have been applied. In 2022, 2023 and 2024 targeted surveys confirmed no positive findings of *Ralstonia solanacearum* in Serbia. **Under eradication**.

Raspberry ringspot virus (*Nepovirus rubi*, RpRSV, EPPO A2 List): not detected in multiannual surveys for raspberry certification. **Absent, confirmed by survey.**

***Stenocarpella maydis* (EPPO A2 List):** the only occurrence of this pest in Serbia dates from 1988. No data exist on current occurrence. **Absent, old record.**

Strawberry crinkle virus (*Cytorhabdovirus fragariarugosus*, EU RNQP)**:** in the last 20 years, there is no data on the presence of this virus in Serbia**. Absent, pest not recorded.**

Strawberry latent ringspot virus (*Stralarivirus fragariae*, EU RNQP): not detected during surveys, including tests for certification of raspberry plants for planting. **Absent, confirmed by survey.**

Strawberry vein banding virus (*Caulimovirus venafragariae*, EPPO A2 List): first record in Serbia in 1998 (RS 1999/094). It has not been detected since during certification of *Fragaria* plants for planting. **Absent, confirmed by survey.**

Tomato black ring virus (*Nepovirus nigranuli*, EU RNQP): detected on tomato samples collected in 1998. It has not been detected in further surveys on tomato, nor in certification of fruit crops. **Absent, confirmed by survey.**

***Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* (EPPO A2 List):** targeted annual surveys have been conducted since 2012. In 2012-2024, over 300 *Prunus* spp. samples were collected from various regions across the country. *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *pruni* was first detected in 2019 on peach (*Prunus persica)* in Irig and in 2020 in Bešenovo on apricot (*Prunus armeniaca)* both in the Fruška Gora region and eradication measures applied (RS 2022/066). In 2024, *X. arboricola* pv. *pruni* was detected again on peach in an orchard situated in Irig. Official measures are applied. **Under eradication**.

Source: NPPO of Serbia (2025-07).

Additional key words: new record, detailed record, eradication, absence

Computer codes: ALTEMA, APMV00, APMV00, ASGV00, ASGV00, CERTCA, CLRV00, CLRV00, CRNRM0, CRNRM0, DIPDMA, ERWICD, HETDPA, LIRIHU, PEPMV0, PHIACI, PHYNCI, PHYPSO, PSDMCA, RALSSL, RPRSV0, SCRV00, SCRV00, SLRSV0, SVBV00, SVBV00, TBRV00, XANTPR, RS

2025/208 First report of *Agrilus planipennis* in Belarus

In the EPPO region *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae – EPPO A2 List) was first reported to occur in the Russian Federation in 2007 (EPPO RS 2007/067) and in Ukraine in 2019 (RS 2019/202).

In Belarus, scientists conducted surveys for *A. planipennis* between 2018 and 2025 in three administrative regions in north-eastern Belarus (Vitebsk, Lyozna, and Orsha), close to the infested areas of Smolensk and Bryansk in the Russian Federation, as well as in the region of Gomel (south-eastern Belarus) in 2025. Surveys were also conducted along railways and motorways from infested areas in the Russian Federation to main cities in northeastern Belarus (Vetka, Dobrush, Rogachev).

No sign of the pest was observed in north-eastern Belarus.

In June 2025, signs of *A. planipennis* infestation were observed on 39 *Fraxinus pennsylvanica* trees and seven *Fraxinus excelsior* trees in Gomel city (Gomel region). Symptoms included canopy dieback, epicormic shoot sprouting, and D-shaped exit holes on the bark. Of the 46 infested ash trees, six *F. pennsylvanica* were classified as having recently died, 25 *F. pennsylvanica* and four *F. excelsior* were classified as dying, and eight *F. pennsylvanica* and three *F. excelsior* were classified as 'significantly weakened'. These infested trees were found in the Zheleznodorozhniy, Sovetskiy and Centralniy districts of Gomel city close to railway tracks. Zviagintsev *et al.* (2025) note that no symptomatic ash trees were observed near Gomel city or along motorways leading to the borders of the Russian Federation or Ukraine which suggests that the pest was introduced as a contaminant of railway transport rather than by natural spread from infested areas. Zviagintsev *et al.* (2025) note that an article reporting the detection of the pest by other scientists in Gomel was published in a newspaper in July 2025 (Usenia & Pomaz, 2025) but that entomological studies carried out in 2013-2023 did not report its presence, suggesting that its introduction is recent.

During the survey, 13 adult beetles were found on ash trees in streets of Gomel city. Adults were observed mating, resting and feeding on leaves of both *F. pennsylvanica* and *F. excelsior*. A fourth instar larva was also found in a gallery on one *F. pennsylvanica* tree. The pest identification was based on morphology.

The NPPO of Belarus recently confirmed to the EPPO Secretariat that *A. planipennis* was first detected in August 2025 in Gomel. Official phytosanitary measures have been implemented and include a delimiting survey and eradication measures.

The pest status of *Agrilus planipennis* in Belarus is officially declared as: **Present, not widely distributed (outbreaks of pest in Gomel) and under official control.**

Source: NPPO of Belarus (2025-09).

Usenia V, Pomaz G (2025-07-15) Yasenevaya izumrudnaya zlatka: karantinnyy vreditel' teper' v Belarusi [Emerald ash borer: a quarantine pest now in Belarus]. Navuka, 29(3068), p. 5 (In Russian).

Zviagintsev VB, Kirichenko NI, Chernik MI, Seraya LG, Baranchikov YN (2025) The Emerald ash borer *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) invaded Belarus. *Acta Biologica Sibirica* **11**, 847-861. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16744135

Pictures *Agrilus planipennis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/AGRLPL/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** AGRLPL, BY

2025/209 First report of *Dacus ciliatus* in Syria

The fruit fly *Dacus ciliatus* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A2 List) is first recorded from Syria. In August 2023, severe damage on cucurbit crops by a new pest was noted by farmers in several areas along the coastal region of Latakia, Syria.
Surveys were conducted in this area in 2023-2024 in over 20 fields and greenhouses of cucumber (*Cucumis sativus*) and squash (*Cucurbita pepo*). The pest identification was based on morphology.

The situation of *Dacus ciliatus* in Syria can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and not under official control.**

Source: Zeity M, David KJ, Al-Rhaeyh Q, Issa S (2025) First record of invasive species, *Dacus ciliatus* Loew (Diptera, Tephritidae) on cucurbit crops in Latakia, Syria. *EPPO Bulletin* 55(2), 293-296.

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

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** DACUCI, SY

2025/210 Update on the situation of *Diaphorina citri* in Cyprus

In Cyprus, *Diaphorina citri* (vector of '*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus' - Hemiptera: Psyllidae, EPPO A1 List) was first recorded in Limassol District in July 2023 (EPPO RS 2023/178) and in September in additional districts in the southern coastal part of the island (Larnaca, Paphos and Ammochostos districts) (RS 2023/196). Official measures have been taken to eradicate the pest and a public awareness campaign is conducted.

Further surveys were conducted and showed that the pest was present in citrus orchards across all districts of Cyprus, namely Ammochostos, Limassol, Larnaca, Nicosia, Paphos with the highest populations detected on the north-west coast (Ammochostos). Infested zones and buffer zones have been demarcated. An intensive survey was conducted to confirm the absence of *Liberibacter* species associated with huanglonbing disease in citrus plants and in *D. citri* specimens.
Official measures against *D. citri* include the prohibition of movement of citrus plants outside the infested zone, the use of insecticides alone or in combination with the release of biological control agents, the removal and destruction of heavily infested shoots, and weed management in citrus orchards.
A biological control programme was initiated with the use of the parasitoid *Tamarixia radiata* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae). The first releases took place in April 2024 and will continue at least up to the end of 2026 with regular monitoring.

The situation of *Diaphorina citri* in Cyprus can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: Melifronidou-Pantelidou A, Urbaneja A, Tena A, Seraphides N, Stavrinides M, Koukkoularidou D, Georgiades M (2025) Eradication campaign for *Diaphorina citri* in Cyprus. *EPPO Bulletin* **55**(2), 305-311.

Pictures *Diaphorina citri*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/DIAACI/photos

Additional key words: detailed record, biocontrol **Computer codes:** DIAACI, LIBEAS, LIBEAF, TAMRRA, CY

2025/211 First report of *Euwallacea similis* in Spain and new findings of alien *Scolytinae*

Euwallacea similis (Coleoptera: Scolytinae, EU A1 Quarantine pest as 'non-European Scolytinae') is a highly polyphagous ambrosia bark beetle native to South-East Asia and reported across Oceania and Africa. It was previously introduced, and established, in Texas, USA in 2002 (EPPO RS 2006/208), and an incursion was recently reported and eradicated in Italy (RS 2025/058, RS 2025/086)

Specimens of *Euwallacea similis* have been collected in traps from August 2019 to November 2023 in three localities in Southeastern Spain (Andalucía and Murcia regions) and one locality in Western Mallorca (Islas Baleares). It was first detected by using light traps in Aguadulce (Almería province, Andalucía): 2 specimens in August 2019 and 5 specimens in August-September 2020. In October 2021, a single specimen was captured in a light trap in Ribera de la Algaida (Almería province), a nearby locality located 5 km from the first site. In 2023 two specimens were caught in a baited trap baited in Aguadulce. On the island of Mallorca, a single specimen was captured in October 2021 in a trapping campaign targeting another bark beetle, *Xylosandrus compactus*. No further captures have been recorded in the island of Mallorca. In October 2022, seven specimens were caught in a trap dedicated to the early detection of exotic species, which was located adjacent to a biomass processing plant in Caravaca (Murcia province, Murcia region). This trap has remained active since 2021 and has not captured any further specimens of this species.

In the same paper, new findings of non-European Scolytinae are also reported:

- *Amasa parviseta*: the species was first recorded in Spain in 2009 (EPPO RS 2024/053). A single specimen was caught in a trap in September 2024 in Motril (Granada province, Andalucía).
- *Xyleborus bispinatus:* the species was already caught in traps in the provinces of Alicante, Murcia, and Valencia (RS 2023/175). The authors report its presence in Motril (Granada province) with three specimens collected in an ornamental *Parkinsonia aculeata*. This represents the first host plant record for this insect in the Iberian Peninsula, and a new host plant for this species.
- The findings of *Euwallacea fornicatus* (EPPO A2 List) reported in this article correspond to the situation as described in RS 2025/010.

Source: Gallega D, De Dios Má, Riba-Flinch JM, García-Reina AN, Galián J, Mas H, Lencina JL, Zafra M, Henares I, Rodríguez F, Alcázar MD (2025) *Euwallacea similis* (Ferrari), a new ambrosia beetle (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Scolytinae) for the Iberian Peninsula, and new records on *Euwallacea fornicatus* (Eichhoff), *Xyleborus bispinatus* Eichhoff and *Amasa parviseta* Knížek & Smith. *Zootaxa* 5673(1), 63-78.

Additional key words: new record, detailed record **Computer codes:** AMASPA, EUWAWH, XYLBBI, XYLBFO, XYLBSI, ES

2025/212 First report of *Cnestus mutilatus* in Austria

Cnestus mutilatus (Coleoptera: Scolytinae – regulated by the EU as 'non-European Scolytinae') is an ambrosia beetle native to Asia. It has been found in the EPPO region in the Russian Far East and is considered established in Italy (EPPO RS 2022/147). It was recently found in Slovenia (RS 2025/175) and Croatia (RS 2025/176) although not recorded as causing damage on trees.

The NPPO of Austria recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first detection of *C. mutilatus* on its territory. In July 2025, the pest was caught in a trap in the municipality of Straß in der Steiermark (Steiermak) near the border to Slovenia. No infested plants were found. Further investigations are ongoing.

The pest status of *Cnestus mutilatus* in Austria is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under surveillance.**

Source: NPPO of Austria (2025-09).

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

Additional key words: new report **Computer codes:** XYLSMU, AT

2025/213 Incursion of *Popillia japonica* in Austria

The NPPO of Austria recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae – EPPO A2 List) on its territory. In July 2025, a single adult male beetle was found by a private individual in their garden in Hörbranz municipality, Vorarlberg state, close to the border with Germany. No signs of damage were found on host plants in the garden or in the surrounding areas. The individual notified the local authorities of the finding. The identity of the pest was confirmed by the National Reference Laboratory by morphological and molecular testing. Official phytosanitary measures have been applied including awareness raising, intensified surveys and traps set within a 1-km radius of the finding, which extends into Germany. As the trap setting radius extends into Germany, the NPPO of Austria and Germany are closely coordinating. No further beetle findings have been reported since the initial finding. The NPPO of Austria considers that this beetle was a hitchhiker as the finding was reported near a highway stop and customs office.

The pest status remains under determination.

Source: NPPO of Austria (2025-08).

The updated emergency plan for *Popillia japonica* in Austria is available here: https://www.pflanzenschutzdienst.at/

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

Additional key words: new report, incursion **Computer codes:** POPIJA, AT

2025/214 *Semanotus bifasciatus*: first finding in Europe

Semanotus bifasciatus (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) is an oligophagous longhorned beetle native to China, the Korean Peninsula, Japan and the Russian Far East (south of Primorsky Krai). *S. bifasciatus* is a secondary pest of Cupressaceae trees in natural environments but in urban environments it has been reported to act as a primary pest of healthy mature trees, causing mortality of large mature trees.

In February 2024, a 45-year-old *Thuja occidentalis* tree in Primorsky Park, Mariupol (Donestk oblast, Ukraine) which had recently died was found with exit holes and signs of damage from an unidentified longhorned beetle. Trunk fragments of the dead tree were transported to a storage facility in Donetsk before analysis in the laboratory of the Donetsk Botanical Garden in September 2024. From November 2024 to February 2025, 191 adult beetles emerged from

the trunk and were identified as *S. bifasciatus* on the basis of morphological tests. Evidence of development of a previous generation, and the two-year developmental cycle of *S. bifasciatus*, indicate that *S. bifasciatus* may have been present in Mariupol since 2021, but the exact timing of introduction is not known.

Source: Gubin AI, Martynov VV, Nikulina TV, Bulysheva NI (2025) *Semanotus bifasciatus* (Motschulsky, 1875) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae): a new dangerous invasive pest of Cupressaceae in Europe. *Far Eastern Entomologist* **525**, 5-12 https://doi.org/10.25221/fee.525.2

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** SEMABI, UA

2025/215 First report of *Hishimonus sellatus* and *H. hamatus* in the Netherlands

Hishimonus sellatus (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) was first found in the EPPO region in 2007 in Russian Federation and has been recorded in Armenia and Georgia (EPPO RS 2023/044). *H. sellatus* is a polyphagous pest that causes minimal damage to host plants through feeding, however it is known to vector several strains of '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma ziziphi' (EU A1 Quarantine Pest) and '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma asteris' (EU RNQP).

In August and September 2025, during official monitoring for the presence of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A2 List) *H. sellatus* was reported for the first time in the Netherlands. Specimens were caught on yellow sticky traps in a commercial greenhouse in the province of Utrecht, West-Nederland. A total of 54 adults were caught on traps between 12th August 2025 and 2nd September. No further adults were found on traps after 9th September 2025. Visual inspection in the greenhouse confirmed sucking damage from *H. sellatus* on bonsai *Rhododendron indicum* plants imported from China in February 2025 that were located near the traps. There was no sign of damage on other plants in the greenhouse.

Phytosanitary measures had already been implemented in the greenhouse in early August, after a finding of *Scirtothrips dorsalis*, which were deemed effective for the control of *H. sellatus*. Further measures were applied targeting *H sellatus*, this includes restriction of movement of all plants out of the greenhouse compartment (0.2 ha), application of plant protection products, weekly trap monitoring and controlled disposal of plant waste. *H. sellatus* has been declared 'quarantine-worthy' by the NPPO of the Netherlands.

The pest status of *Hishimonus sellatus* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Transient, actionable, under eradication.**

Another *Hishimonus* species was also recently recorded in the Netherlands: *Hishimonus hamatus*. *H. hamatus* originates from Eastern Asia and was first found in the EPPO region in 2012 in Slovenia (EPPO RS 2014/025) and then in several countries in Europe (RS 2023/044, RS 2025/001). In the Netherlands four specimens were caught in light traps in 2024. The lack of records on plants suggest that this species may only reach the Netherlands during migrating flights.
The pest status of *Hishimonus hamatus* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Present, few occurrences**.

Source: de Haas MM, den Bieman CK, Jansen RP, Lommen G, Martens T, van de Meulengraaf B, Verbeek M (2025) Four leafhoppers new for the Dutch fauna (Auchenorrhyncha: Cicadomorpha: Cicadellidae). entomologische berichten 85(2), 61-65.

Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (2025-09) Quick scan for *Hishimonus sellatus*. Accessed at: https://english.nvwa.nl/topics/pest-risk-analysis/documents/plant/plant-health/pest-risk-analysis/documents/quick-scan-hishimonus-sellatus

NPPO of the Netherlands (2025-09).

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** HISHSE, HISHHA, NL

2025/216 *Aclees taiwanensis:* first record of in the Russian Federation and incursion in Poland

The black fig weevil, *Aclees taiwanensis* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) originates in Asia and is established in France and Italy (EPPO RS 2021/175). It was found on a fig tree in Germany in 2022 (RS 2023/082).

A. taiwanensis was first observed in 2023 on desiccated fig seedlings (*Ficus carica)* in a nursery in Sotchi (Southern Russia). The authors consider that the pest was likely introduced to the Black Sea coast of Russia from Southern Europe with plants for planting (Zhuravleva *et al.*, 2025).

A. taiwanensis was also detected on an imported bonsai of *Ficus microcarpa* var. *crassifolia* in Poland in 2024 a few months after its import. The tree died and the pest is not expected to overwinter in Poland (Mazur *et al.*, 2024).

Source: Zhuravleva EN, Zabaluev IA, Shoshina EI, Karpun NN, Kirichenko NI (2025) Инвазия чужеродного долгоносика Aclees taiwanensis Kôno, 1933 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Molytinae) на черноморское побережье России: биология и молекулярная генетика нового вредителя [Invasion by the alien weevil Aclees taiwanensis Kôno, 1933 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Molytinae) on the black sea coast of Russia: biology and molecular genetics of a new pest]. *Russian Journal of Biological Invasions* **2**, 69-81.

Mazur MA, Grzywocz J, Żyła W (2024) First case of introducing the exotic weevil *Aclees taiwanensis* Kôno, 1933 (Coleoptera: Curculionidae: Molytinae) in Poland. *Polish Journal of Entomology* **93**, 1-4.

Additional key words: new report, incursion **Computer codes:** ACEETW, RU, PL

2025/217 *Polydrusus tibialis:* a new pest of peach in Greece

Polydrusus tibialis (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) is a weevil species known to infest several fruit trees, including peach (*Prunus persica*) and has been reported to occur across southern and south-eastern Europe. During a faunistic study conducted during the growing season of peach between April and July 2024, *P. tibialis* was found in peach orchards in Pella, Central Macedonia, Northern Greece. Adult specimens were found in traps and on leaves and shoots of peach trees that showed serrated leaves and deformed fruits. Larvae of *P. tibialis* were also found to infest the roots of young peach trees causing wilting and reduced growth. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular testing. *P. tibialis* has been reported in Greece before, but this is the first record as a pest of peach in Greece.

Andreadis *et al*. (2025) also report that serious infestation occurred in Thessaly region (Northern Greece).

Source: Alonso-Zarazaga MA, Barrios H, Borovec R, Bouchard P, Caldara R, Colonnelli E, Gültekin L, Hlaváč P, Korotyaev B, Lyal CHC, Machado A, Meregalli M, Pierotti H, Ren L, Sánchez-Ruiz M, Sforzi A, Silfverberg H, Skuhrovec J, Trýzna M, Yunakov N (2023) Cooperative catalogue of palaearctic Coleoptera Curculionoidea. *Monografías electrónicas. Sociedad Entomológica Aragonesa* **14**(2), 1–780. http://sea-entomologia.org/MeSEA14_2023.pdf

Andreadis SS, Koutsogeorgiou EI, Navrozidis EI, Kaltsidis A, Avtzis DN (2025) First report of *Polydrusus tibialis* Gyllenhal (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) infesting peaches in northern Greece. *Insects* 16(2), 192. https://doi.org/10.3390/insects16020192

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** POLOTI, GR

2025/218 First report of *Davidsoniella virescens* in Poland

In southern Poland, during research studies conducted in two distant forest sites (Ojców National Park in 2018 and in the village Rozpucie (Brzozów Forest District) in 2021), mycelium and spore-forming structures resembling those of a *Davidsoniella* species were found on cross sections of logs and branches of *Fagus sylvatica*. Based on morphological and phylogenetic analysis, the fungus isolated from diseased wood was identified as *Davidsoniella virescens* (EU A1 quarantine pest). Inoculation tests were conducted on seedlings of *F. sylvatica* and *Acer saccharum*. They confirmed the pathogenicity of *D. virescens* to *F. sylvatica* with 5 of 36 inoculated seedlings showing wilting symptoms and showed that all six Polish isolates tested caused wood discoloration within the stems, occasionally in the roots, and bark necrotic lesions. None of the 36 inoculated *A. saccharum* seedlings showed symptoms of early leaf discoloration or wilting, nor of bark necrosis but they showed internal wood discoloration.

Previously, *D. virescens* had only been recorded in Eastern Canada and the USA where it causes 'sapstreak disease' of *Acer saccharum*. It has also been found as a saprophyte on logs of a number of other woody species. Sapstreak disease is characterized by a distinctive stain of internal wood in the roots and at the base of the stem. Stained wood is greenish yellow with reddish streaks and appears water soaked. In cross-sections of the wood, stain streaks have a radial arrangement and are surrounded by a dark-green zone. This disease significantly lowers the commercial value of wood, and affected trees have smaller leaves, as well as gradual branch dieback, eventually followed by tree death. *D. virescens* is also able to survive and sporulate on air-dried boards for several months, indicating that wood products could potentially transport the pathogen to new areas.

After the article by Kowalski & Bilański (2024) was published, the NPPO of Poland undertook actions to confirm the identification of the pathogen. The isolates provided by the authors of the article were analysed using morphological and molecular tests by the EU Reference Laboratory (EURL for Plant Pathogenic Fungi and Oomycetes). At the end of July 2025, the EURL confirmed the identity of the pathogen. As this is the first record on *F. sylvatica*, the question arises whether there are host-specific lineages or two forms of the pathogen (pathogenic and saprophytic). However, the EURL considers that the limited amount of data on the diversity of *D. virescens* does not allow a reliable conclusion to be drawn on either possibility. The pathogenicity of the fungus across the known host range, its diversity and several aspects of its biology still need to be elucidated. Limited data exist in the literature on *D. virescens*. The phylogenetic analyses performed by the EURL showed that the two strains of *D. virescens* isolated from *A. saccharum* in the USA diverge from strains isolated from *F. sylvatica* in Poland, as well as from *Quercus* sp. and *F. grandiflora* in the USA.

The NPPO of Poland underlined that the circumstances of detection (an old tree with broken branches or cut logs in protected areas) suggest that the fungus, in its saprophytic form, may have been present in Europe for a long time but has not been detected until now. As a consequence, no eradication measures will be implemented for the time being, but research will be conducted to assess the pathogenicity of the detected forms, and forest stands will be monitored in the areas where the fungus was isolated.

No official pest status for *Davidsoniella virescens* has been declared yet in Poland.

Source: Kowalski T, Bilański P (2024) Recognition of *Davidsoniella virescens* on *Fagus sylvatica* wood in Poland and assessment of its pathogenicity. *Journal of Fungi* **10**(7), 465. https://doi.org/10.3390/jof10070465

NPPO of Poland (2025-09).

EFSA Panel on Plant Health (2017) Pest categorisation of *Davidsoniella virescens*. EFSA Journal 15(12), e05104, https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.5104

EFSA (2023) Pest survey card for *Davidsoniella virescens*. EFSA supporting publication 2023:EN-8186, doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2023.EN-8186

Pictures *Davidsoniella virescens*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CERAVI/photos

Additional key words: new record, new host plant **Computer codes:** CERAVI, PL

2025/219 Update on the situation of *Phytophthora pluvialis* in Belgium

Phytophthora pluvialis (EPPO Alert List) was first detected in Belgium in 2023 in the southern part of the country in watercourses and in samples from two Douglas fir tree (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) stands (EPPO RS 2024/039).

In order to determine the status of *P. pluvialis*, the NPPO of Belgium conducted an official survey throughout Belgium in spring and autumn 2024 in watercourses and in samples of *P. menziesii*, *Tsuga heterophylla* and *Larix sp.* trees from nurseries and (semi-)natural environments in forests.

During this survey, *P. pluvialis* was detected in 4 additional watercourses crossing *P. menziesii* stands and in *P. menziesii* plants in a forest nursery that did not show any signs of damage. The watercourses were located in the provinces of Luxembourg, Liege and Namur (Wallonia, southern Belgium). The presence of the pathogen was confirmed by real-time PCR. *P. pluvialis* was not detected in Flanders Region, northern Belgium.
The NPPO of Belgium considers that *P. pluvialis* is established in forest areas in southern Belgium and cannot be eradicated or contained. As there are no symptoms on host plants, the NPPO considers that *P. pluvialis* does not qualify to be an EU quarantine pest or regulated non-quarantine pest.

The pest status of *Phytophthora pluvialis* in Belgium is officially declared as: **Present, only in some parts of Wallonia.**

Source: NPPO of Belgium (2025-09).

Pictures *Phytophthora pluvialis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYTUV/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** PHYTUV, BE

2025/220 Update on the situation of tomato brown rugose fruit virus in the United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus*, ToBRFV – EPPO Alert List) was first detected in July 2019 and again in 2020 in England (EPPO RS 2019/163, RS 2020/078, RS 2020/123) and all outbreaks were declared eradicated at the end of 2021 (RS 2022/018).
In 2023, two outbreaks occurred: one in south-east England and one in south England, and both were declared eradicated in January 2025.
In 2024, two outbreaks have been reported: one in south-east of England and one in south England.

In 2025, three outbreaks have been reported: one in south-east of England, one in the east of England and one in north-east England.
Eradication measures are ongoing for the outbreaks detected in 2024 and 2025.

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

Source: NPPO of the United Kingdom (2025-08).

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

Additional key words: detailed record, eradication **Computer codes:** TOBRFV, GB

2025/221 New EU Regulation for *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*

The European Union (EU) has established temporary measures to prevent the introduction into, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* (EPPO A2 List), a bacterium causing bacterial wilt of Fabaceae.
This pathogen is absent from the EU but, in recent years, it was detected in imported seeds and several outbreaks occurred in the EU (EPPO RS 2022/110, RS 2024/224, RS 2025/044, RS 2025/125). From April 2026, import requirements will apply to plants for planting (including seed) of *Glycine max, Phaseolus coccineus, Phaseolus lunatus, Phaseolus vulgaris, Vicia faba, Vigna angularis, Vigna mungo, Vigna radiata* and *Vigna unguiculata* .

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1316 of 2 July 2025 on temporary measures to prevent the introduction into, establishment and spread within the Union territory of *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens* (Hedges) Collins and Jones, and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. OJ L, 2025/1316. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/1316/oj

Pictures *Curtobacterium flaccumfaciens* pv. *flaccumfaciens*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CORBFL/photos

Additional key words: regulation **Computer codes:** CORBFL, EU

2025/222 The potential for pre-emptive biological control of *Diaphorina citri* (EPPO A1 List) using *Tamarixia radiata*

Why
Pre-emptive biological control can be considered for plant pests prior to a pest establishing and becoming widespread in a country at risk. Potential biological control agents (BCAs) can be identified in advance of the pest arriving and some initial screening can be conducted on their safety and suitability for the EPPO region. *Diaphorina citri* (Hemiptera: Psyllidae) is a vector of the causal agent of citrus huanglongbing disease ('*Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus', '*Candidatus* Liberibacter americanus', and '*Candidatus* Liberibacter africanus' - all EPPO A1 List), under natural conditions. Huanglongbing disease is currently absent from the EPPO region, however, *D. citri* has recently been reported in the EPPO region (Israel, 2021 transient; Cyprus 2023 present, few occurrences). The potential economic impact of huanglongbing to the citrus industry in the Mediterranean basin is huge. Having a biological control agent ready for use in case of an outbreak of *D. citri* can help to reduce the spread of the pest and the pathogens it can vector and contain outbreaks.

Potential biocontrol agents
Tamarixia radiata (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) is an ectoparasitic wasp originally from southern Asia (e.g. Pakistan), which has been utilised as a biological control agent against *D. citri* in a number of regions with varying levels of success. The biological control agent has been introduced into Guadelupe, Indonesia, Martinique, Mauritius, Philippines, Reunion, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, USA (California and Florida). In the EPPO region, *T. radiata* has recently been released (2024) in Cyprus and monitoring is ongoing to assess its impact and establishment (Melifronidou-Pantelidou et al., 2025).

Biology and ecology
Tamarixia radiata females deposit 166 to 300 eggs during their life-span of 14 to 24 days. The development time from egg to adult is 12 days under a 25 °C and 14 hours of light:10 hours of dark regime. *T. radiata* completes development at temperatures varying from 15 to 32 °C, with an optimum of 25 °C. The lowest developmental threshold is estimated to be 11 °C for the whole life cycle.

Feeding and efficacy
Adult *T. radiata* feed on *D. citri* 1st – 3rd instar nymphs and eggs and the females parasitise the 4th and 5th instar nymphs of the psyllid. High levels of parasitism have been recorded at 25 and 30°C (84.17 and 72.50%, respectively). A female's total parasitism capacity ranges from 20 to 168 nymphs. A low parasitism rate was observed at 15°C.

Safety
Tamarixia radiata has a narrow host range and is highly host specific to *D. citri*, with just one non-target species, *Bactericera cockerelli* (Hemiptera: Triozidae, EPPO A1 List), which is parasitised at low levels (< 5 %). There is no evidence of adverse negative impacts of *T. radiata*.

History of use as a biocontrol agent
In Florida (USA), *T. radiata* has established though parasitism rates are lower than those reported in some other regions where it has been introduced i.e. Reunion Island, Guadeloupe and Puerto Rico (USDA, 2010). In the late 1970s, *T. radiata* was released in Reunion Island and the population of *D. citri* was significantly reduced with *T. radiata* attacking 60 to 70 % of *D. citri* nymphs. USDA (2010) detail that the use of the BCA in South-East Asia has not achieved a good level of control, probably due to hyperparasites. *T. radiata* is considered a key natural enemy of *D. citri* and in urban citrus in southern California (Irvin

& Hoddle, 2021), this introduced ectoparasitoid has resulted in a 70% reduction in *D. citri* densities since its initial release and establishment (Kistner et al., 2016a; Kistner et al., 2016b; Milosavljević et al., 2021).

Climatic suitability
Souza et al. (2023) provides an assessment of the current global distribution of *T. radiata* along with future projections using CLIMEX. Under the current climate, the model projects some suitability for the Mediterranean region. Under climate change scenarios, the suitability increases in both magnitude and overall area.

Recommendations of the Joint EPPO/IOBC Panel on Biological Control Agents
The Joint EPPO/IOBC Panel on Biological Control Agents recommends that countries at risk of *D. citri* and huanglongbing follow the progress of biological control programmes using *T. radiata*, and consider joining regional consortiums for preparedness against the pest.

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Source: Joint EPPO/IOBC Panel on Biological Control Agents (2025-09).

Additional key words: biocontrol **Computer codes:** DIAACI, LIBEAM, LIBEAS, LIBEAF, TAMRRA

2025/223 First report of the biological control agent *Encarsia smithi* in Italy

Encarsia smithi (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) is a parasitoid species associated mainly with whiteflies of the genus *Aleurocanthus*. Indigenous to Asia, *E. smithi* is also present in South Africa where (as is also the case in Japan) it has been utilised as a classical biological agent against *Aleurocanthus woglumi* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae, EPPO A1 List). Even though *E. smithi* has been considered to have potential as a pre-emptive biological control agent against *A. woglumi* in Europe, there have been no official releases. Between January 2024 and July 2025, as part of the Phytosanitary Surveillance Project of the Campania Region, inspections were conducted on citrus species in orchards and urban areas with the aim of monitoring the spread of *Aleurocanthus spiniferus* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae, EPPO A2 pest), a pest native to South-East Asia and present in several EPPO countries. In Italy, it was first recorded in the Puglia region in 2008 (EPPO RS 2008/092) and it has since expanded its distribution (EPPO RS 2022/103, EPPO RS 2025/141). During these surveys, *Eretmocerus iulii* (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) was recorded as the primary parasitoid of *A. spiniferus*. In addition, *E. smithi* was recorded for the first time in Italy, parasitising fourth instar larvae of *A. spiniferus*. An assessment of the behaviour of the two parasitoids over the year suggests that their ecology may be complementarity which can promote a greater suppression of *A. spiniferus* populations.

Source: Melone G, Andretta L, Pica F, Donnarumma FP, Ascolese R, Nugnes F, Laudonia S (2025) First detection of *Encarsia smithi* in Italy and do-occurrence with *Eretmocerus iulii*: a case of unintentional introductions and new associations with the invasive species *Aleurocanthus spiniferus*. *Insects* **16**, 891. https://doi.org/10.3390/insects16090891

Additional key words: biocontrol, new record **Computer codes:** ALECSN, ALECWO, ERETIU, PRSPSM, IT

2025/224 Climate suitability of biological control agents and their hosts

Classical biological control utilises natural enemies from the plant's region of origin to control it in the introduced/invasive range. Climate change has the potential to expand an invasive plant's range into areas that were previously unsuitable. This could result in a climate tolerance mismatch between the invasive plant and the biological control agent. To evaluate this, the potential global distributions of *Alternanthera philoxeroides* (Amaranthaceae, EPPO A2 List), an emergent aquatic plant, and a specialist natural enemy, *Agasicles hygrophila* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae) were modelled under future climate change scenarios. Occurrence data for *A. philoxeroides* and *A. hygrophila* were obtained from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility and other online sources. The climate change scenarios modelled were one low to moderate scenario (SSP2-4.5) and a worst-case scenario (SSP5-8.5). The model showed that in general, the global distribution of *A. philoxeroides* expanded, especially in central Africa, Eastern Europe, western China and North America. *A. hygrophila* is also predicted to expand, but to a lesser extent, with some

loss of currently suitable areas. The overlapping area between their distributions is projected to increase globally, except in the USA. This suggests that *A. hygrophila* may be a promising biological control agent for *A. philoxeroides* in many regions in the future, but portions of the distribution of *A. philoxeroides* may remain unsuitable particularly at higher latitudes.

Source: Pulzatto MM, Guilherme dos Santos Ribas L, Murillo R, Florĕncio FM, Vilá M, Thomaz SM (2024) Biocontrol in a warmer world: anticipating the climate suitability of an aggressive invasive plant and its specialist herbivore. *Hydrobiologia*, https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-025-05808-2

Additional key words: biocontrol

Computer codes: AGAIHY, ALRPH

2025/225 First report of *Cenchrus setaceus* in Crete (Greece)

Cenchrus setaceus (Poaceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) has a native range in North and East Africa and western Asia. It is also included in the EU Regulation 1143/2014 as an invasive species of Union Concern. *C. setaceus* can have a negative impact on native biodiversity and ecosystem services by outcompeting native species and changing the structure and successional processes of grasslands. During field work conducted on the island of Crete (Greece) in 2024, 18 separate locations of *C. setaceus* were recorded. The records ranged from one or two specimens to at least 12 individuals, growing along roadsides, near urban settlements and ruderal habitats. In addition, the species is distributed in small populations between the cites of Heraklion and Agios Nikolaos, some 60 km apart. Most of the populations in Crete are close to the coast and near human settlements and tourist infrastructure. The spread of *C. setaceus* in Crete can be attributed to its wind-borne seeds. The author considers that there is therefore a high probability that the species in more widespread in Crete.

Source: Verloove F (2025) First records of the invasive weed of Union Concern *Cenchrus setaceus* (Poaceae) in Crete (Greece). *Acta Botanica Croatica*, DOI: 10.37427/botcro-2026-002.

Additional key words: New record, Invasive alien plant **Computer codes:** PESSA, GR

2025/226 Update of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern (European Union)

The Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on Invasive Alien Species entered into force on the 1st of January 2015. At the core of the Regulation is a list of invasive alien species of Union concern. Following the third update of the list in 2022, 40 invasive alien plant species were listed as species of Union concern. In July 2025, the European Commission published an update to the list and an additional six species and one hybrid are included (Table 1). For each species on the list, EU Member States will need to implement the following measures: (1) prevention, (2) early detection and rapid eradication of new invasions, (3) management of populations that are already widely spread.

Table 1. Invasive alien plants included in the List of Union (EU) concern

Species	Form	Year of addition	EPPO List
Acacia mearnsii (Fabaceae)	Tree	2025	*
Acacia saligna (Fabaceae)	Tree	2019	Invasive Alien Plants
Ailanthus altissima (Simaroubaceae)	Tree	2019	Invasive Alien Plants
Alternanthera philoxeroides (Amaranthaceae)	Aquatic perennial herb	2017	A2
Andropogon virginicus (Poaceae)	Perennial grass	2019	A2
Asclepias syriaca (Apocynaceae)	Perennial herb	2017	Invasive Alien Plants
Baccharis halimifolia (Asteraceae)	Deciduous shrub	2016	A2
Broussonetia papyrifera (Moraceae)	Tree	2025	*
Cabomba caroliniana (Cabombaceae)	Aquatic perennial herb	2016	Invasive Alien Plants
Cardiospermum grandiflorum (Sapindaceae)	Annual/perennial climber	2019	A2
Cenchrus setaceus (Poaceae)	Perennial grass	2017	Invasive Alien Plants
Cortaderia jubata (Poaceae)	Perennial grass	2019	A1
Crassula helmsii (Crassulaceae)	Aquatic herb	2025	A2
Delairea odorata (Asteraceae)	Vine	2025	Invasive Alien Plants, *

Ehrharta calycina (Poaceae)	Perennial grass	2019	A2
Elodea nuttallii (Hydrocharitaceae)	Aquatic perennial herb	2017	Invasive Alien Plants
Gunnera tinctoria (Gunneraceae)	Perennial herb	2017	Invasive Alien Plants
Gymnocoronis spilanthoides (Asteraceae)	Aquatic perennial herb	2019	A2
Hakea sericea (Proteaceae)	Evergreen shrub or small tree	2022	A2
Heracleum mantegazzianum (Apiaceae)	Monocarpic perennial	2017	Invasive Alien Plants
Heracleum persicum (Apiaceae)	Perennial herb	2016	A2
Heracleum sosnowskyi (Apiaceae)	Biennial/perennial herb	2016	A2
Humulus scandens (Cannabaceae)	Annual vine	2019	A2
Hydrocotyle ranunculoides (Apiaceae)	Perennial aquatic herb	2016	A2
Impatiens glandulifera (Balsaminaceae)	Annual herb	2017	Invasive Alien Plants
Koenigia polystachya (Polygonaceae)	Perennial herb	2022	Invasive Alien Plants
Lagarosiphon major (Hydrocharitaceae)	Submerged aquatic	2016	Invasive Alien Plants
Lespedeza cuneata (Fabaceae)	Perennial herbaceous legume	2019	A1
Ludwigia grandiflora (Onagraceae)	Emergent perennial aquatic	2016	A2
Ludwigia peploides (Onagraceae)	Emergent perennial aquatic	2016	A2
Lygodium japonicum (Lygodiaceae)	Perennial climbing fern	2019	A1
Lysichiton americanus (Araceae)	Perennial herb	2016	Invasive Alien Plants
Microstegium vimineum (Poaceae)	Annual grass	2017	A2
Myriophyllum aquaticum (Haloragaceae)	Aquatic herb	2016	Invasive Alien Plants
Myriophyllum heterophyllum (Haloragaceae)	Aquatic herb	2017	A2
Neltuma juliflora (Fabaceae)	Perennial woody shrub/tree	2019	A2
Parthenium hysterophorus (Asteraceae)	Annual herb	2016	A2
Pistia stratiotes (Araceae)	Perennial aquatic macrophyte	2022	A2
Polygonum perfoliatum (Polygonaceae)	Annual herbaceous vine	2016	A2
Pontederia crassipes (Pontederiaceae)	Aquatic floating perennial herb	2016	A2
Pueraria montana var. *lobata* (Fabaceae)	Deciduous vine	2016	A2
Reynoutria japonica (Polygonaceae)	Perennial	2025	Invasive Alien Plants
Reynoutria sachalinensis (Polygonaceae)	Perennial	2025	Invasive Alien Plants
Reynoutria x *bohemica* (Polygonaceae)	Perennial	2025	Invasive Alien Plants
Salvinia molesta (Salviniaceae)	Perennial floating aquatic	2019	A2
Triadica sebifera (Euphorbiaceae)	Deciduous tree	2019	A1

Note: *Celastrus orbiculatus* was included in Regulation 1143/204 in 2022 and will be added to the list after a transition period of five years.

***** - the EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants agreed that in 2025/26 the EPPO prioritization process for invasive alien plants (PM 5/6), section B (Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed) will be carried out on these species to evaluate if a PRA Report should be produced for the whole of the EPPO region or if they should be included on the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants.

Source: Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1422 of 17 July 2025 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1141 to update the list of invasive alien species of Union concern. *OJ L 2025/1422*.
http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/1422/oj

Additional key words: regulation, Invasive alien plant

Computer codes: ACASA, ACAMR, AILAL, ALRPH, ANOVI, ASCSY, BACHA, CABAQ, CRIGR, CSBHE, CDTJU, EHRCA, EICCR, ELDNU, GUATI, GYNSP, HKASE, HERMZ, HERPE, HERSO, HUMJA, HYDRA, IPAGL, POLCU, POLPS, LGAMA, LESCU, LUDUR, LUDPE, LYFJA, LSYAM, MCGVI, MYPBR, MYPHE, PTNHY, PESSA, POLPF, PIIST, PRCJU, PUELO, REYSA, RETBO, SAVMO, SAQSE, SENMI, EU

2025/227 Negative impacts of invasive *Acacia* species in fragmented forests

The impact of *Acacia dealbata* (Fabaceae: EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) and *Acacia melanoxylon* in a fragmented forest landscape was evaluated with varying invasion levels in central Portugal. In 2023, surveys and sampling were conducted for both species in 25 sampling points. Of the 25 sampling points, nine were invaded (with a varying cover of *Acacia*, including *A. dealbata* and/or *A. melanoxylon*) and the remaining 16 showed no signs of invasion. An invaded site had between 5 % to 100 % cover of Acacia. At each point, data on vegetation structure, leaf litter and soil quality, and springtail (Collembola) functional structure were gathered. High levels of *Acacia* invasion were associated with reduced plant cover and plant species richness. As *Acacia* invasion intensified (higher percentage cover), there was a significant decrease in the leaf litter C/N ratio, and an increase in soil organic carbon. These *Acacia* induced impacts triggered cascading effects on the relationships between shrub cover, leaf litter and soil quality, and springtail functional structure. These findings showed that even low levels of *Acacia* invasion can alter above- and belowground dynamics. Prioritizing early intervention in areas with smaller infestations (i.e., especially in fragmented landscapes like those in central Portugal) can help prevent further spread and impacts of both *A. dealbata* and *A. melanoxylon*.

Source: Juan-Ovejero R, Reis F, Martins da Silva P, Marchante E, Garcia F, Dias MC, Covelo F, Alves da Silva A, Freitas H, Sousa JP, Alves J (2025) *Acacia* invasion triggers cascading effects above- and belowground in fragmented forests. *Neobiota* **100**, 345-369.

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant, impact

Computer codes: ACADA, ACAME, PT

2025/228 Common plant species in their native range may have tendencies to naturalise in other regions

Invasive alien plant species are one of the largest groups of invasive taxa and can have significant detrimental impacts on native biodiversity, habitats and ecosystem services. Invasive alien plants can be moved from country to country either intentionally, e.g. as ornamental plants, or accidentally e.g. as seed contaminants of seed or grain. If there is a correlation between a species' ecology in the native range and the introduced range, this can prove useful for pest risk analysis, especially where a potentially invasive species is new to a given area and there is little scientific evidence of invasiveness in the introduced range. To assess if plant species which have become widely established across the globe are also increasing in occupancy (proportion of grid cells where recorded) in their native ranges, the changes in occurrence of 3 920 native species was modelled for 10 regions in Europe. This was then compared to the global establishment success of each species using the Global Naturalized Alien Flora database (GloNAF). The results showed that global naturalization success was higher for species that have had a consistent high occupancy in their native range (over decades), and for species that have increased their occupancy in the native range. Risk analysis methods do not often consider if a plant species commonly occurs in its native range, though such a factor might help policymakers and managers evaluate the potential for a species to be invasive in other regions.

Source: Paudel R, Fristoe TS, Kinlock NL, Davis AJS, Zhao W, Van Calster H, Chytrý M, Danihelka J, Decocq G, Ehrendorfer–Schratt L, Guo K, Guo W-Y, Kaplan Z, Pierce S, Wild J, Dawson W, Essl F, Kreft H, Pergl J, Pyšek P, Winter M, van Kleunen M (2025) Many plants naturalized as aliens abroad have also become more common within their native regions *Nature Communications* https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-63293-6

Additional key words: Invasive alien plant