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2026/025 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**

In an article on pests of *Capsicum chinense* in Cameroon, Sah *et al.* (2025) record the presence of the following alien species: *Aleurothrixus trachoides* (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – formerly EPPO Alert List), *Exomala orientalis (*syn. *Anomala orientalis)* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae - EPPO A1 List), *Grapholita funebrana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis (Thysanoptera), *Tagasta marginella* (Orthoptera: Pyrgomorphidae), *Xenocatantops humilis* (Orthoptera: Acrididae). **Present.**

Aleurothrixus trachoides (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) occurs in Kenya. It was first detected on *Capsicum chinense* in 2020 (Canty, 2024). **Present.**

Aleurothrixus trachoides (Hemiptera: Aleyrodidae – formerly EPPO Alert List) occurs in Indonesia. It is reported in association with yellow leaf curl disease on *Capsicum annuum (*Kamaliah *et al.*, 2024). **Present**.

Anastrepha obliqua (Diptera: Tephritidae, EPPO A1 List) is reported from Texas (USA). Four larvae were detected in grapefruit (*Citrus x aurantium* var. *paradisi)* collected on a residential property in Mission (Hidalgo County) in January 2026. A quarantine area was established, and eradication measures are applied (NAPPO, 2026).
The pest status of *Anastrepha obliqua* in the USA is officially declared as*:* **Present: transient, only in one area in Texas, under eradication.**

Aulacaspis yasumatsui (Hemiptera: Diaspididae – formerly EPPO Alert List) is first recorded in Japan, threatening native *Cycas revoluta* in Ryukyu Archipelago (Deloso *et al.*, 2025)

Cucurbit chlorotic yellows virus (*Crinivirus*, CCYV) is reported for the first time in Italy. CCYV was detected on melon (*Cucumis melo*) in Caserta province (Campania region) in July 2021. Cucumis melo endornavirus (*Alphaendornavirus cucumis*, CmEV), tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus (*Begomovirus solanumdelhiense*, ToLCNDV – EPPO A2 List), and cucurbit aphid-borne yellows virus (*Polerovirus CABYV*) were also detected (Kwak *et al.*, 2025).

Ditylenchus destructor (EU RNQP) is first reported from Iraq on potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) crops in the provinces of Erbil and Duhok provinces (Kurdistan Region). It was detected during the 2024 growing season (Ahmed & Ami, 2025). **Present**.

Rahnella victoriana, one of the bacteria associated with acute oak decline, is first reported from Poland. It was isolated from symptomatic pedunculate oaks *(Quercus robur)* in the Odra River valley, south-western Poland (Tkaczyk *et al.*, 2025). So far, only *Brenneria goodwinii* and *Gibbsiella quercinecans* had been detected from weakened oak trees (EPPO RS 2022/134, RS 2025/157). **Present.**

The following pests in the family Crambidae (Lepidoptera) are first recorded from the Federated States of Micronesia: *Diaphania indica, Maruca vitrata* (Ko *et al.*, 2025). **Present.**

Neopestalotiopsis rosae is reported for the first time in Costa Rica. In September 2022, strawberry plants (*Fragaria* x *ananassa*) showing leaf chlorosis, necrosis, browning and

wilting were reported from plantations in Alajuela, Cartago and San José. The identity of the pest was confirmed by molecular testing (Arroyo Vargas *et al.*, 2025). **Present, not widely distributed.**

The banana rust mite *Phyllocoptruta musae* (Acarida: Eriophyidae) is first reported from Mexico (NAPPO, 2026). The pest was detected in December 2025 in the municipality of Teapa (Tabasco, Mexico). Phytosanitary measures are implemented and include surveillance, delimitation, sampling and management. This mite was first described in Australia, and is known to occur in China (Guangxi, Hainan) and in Thailand. It was first reported from the western hemisphere in 2020 in the Dominican Republic.
The pest status of *Phyllocoptruta musae* in Mexico is officially declared as*:* **Present, transient.**

Tomato chlorosis virus (*Crinivirus tomatichlorosis*, ToCV - EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Argentina where it occurs in mixed infections with tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List) in the provinces of Buenos Aires and Corrientes. ToBRFV was detected in tomato crops in several regions as well as in wastewater (Ibañez et al., 2025). **Present.**

- **Detailed records**

In Australia, a new outbreak of *Bactrocera tryoni* (Diptera: Tephritidae – EPPO A1 List) is reported in Elizabeth East (Adelaide, South Australia). Outbreaks have previously been reported in Glynde and Riverland (also in South Australia). Official measures are applied to eradicate the pest (Government of South Australia, 2026).

In China, *Ditylenchus destructor* (EU RNQP) is first reported on sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) in Hunan (southern China. Prior reports of *D. destructor* on sweet potato were limited to northern provinces of China (Liu et al., 2026).

The following scale insects were recently recorded in California (USA): *Ceroplastes rusci* (Hemiptera: Coccidae – EAEU A1 List), *Toumeyella parvicornis* (Hemiptera: Coccidae – EPPO A2 List), *Coccus viridis* (Hemiptera: Coccidae), *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* (Hemiptera: Diaspididae – formerly EPPO Alert List) (von Ellenrieder, 2025).

In China, tomato chlorosis virus (*Crinivirus tomatichlorosis*, ToCV - EPPO A2 List) occurs on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) in Sichuan and Chongqing (Yang et al., 2025).

In Spain, *Trachymela sloanei* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae – EPPO Alert List) was known to occur in Andalucía (EPPO RS 2016/101). Adame & Martín (2025) report its presence for the first time in northern Spain, in Cataluña.

*Trirachys sartus (*syn. *Aeolesthes sarta)* (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae – EPPO A2 List) is expanding its range in Kazakhstan. During surveys conducted in 2022-2025, it was recorded in Turkestan, Zhambyl, Kyzylorda and Mangystau Oblasts. The preferred host plants are black poplar (*Populus nigra*) and silver poplar (*P. alba*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), and elm (*Ulmus pumila*) (Temreshev, 2025).

In China, tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Inner Mongolia (Neimenggu). It was detected on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) in March 2024 (Shan *et al.*, 2025).

In China, tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus (*Begomovirus solanumdelhiense*, ToLCNDV – EPPO A2 List) is known to occur in Anhui, Jiangsu, Shanghai, Shandong and Zhejiang (EPPO RS

2023/103, RS 2025/113, RS 2025/229) on tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and cucurbits. In autumn 2024, ToLCNDV was reported for the first time in Jiangxi province on symptomatic melon (*Cucumis melo*) plants grown in a greenhouse in Gao'an City. High Throughput Sequencing tests on three plants identified ToLCNDV and melon necrotic spot virus (*Gammacarmovirus melonis*, MNSV), watermelon silver mottle virus (*Orthotospovirus citrullomaculosi*, WSMoV – EPPO A1 List), Cucumis melo alphaendornavirus (*Alphaendornavirus cucumis*, CmEV), and a newly described virus, cucurbit chlorotic virus (CuCV) (Fanghong *et al.*, 2025).

In China, tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus (*Begomovirus solanumdelhiense*, ToLCNDV – EPPO A2 List) is first reported in Guangdong. It was detected in wax gourd (*Benincasa hispida*) (Guo *et al.*, 2025).

- **Absence**

In Azerbaijan, the presence of *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* (Lepidoptera; Tortricidae – EPPO A2 List) was reported in 2017 by scientists. Larvae had been observed in the Absheron Peninsula and the Lankaran district on *Laurus nobilis* and *Ligustrum lucidum*, between 1997 and 2008. The NPPO of Azerbaijan recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that *C. pronubana* is a regulated pest in Azerbaijan. The pest was not detected during surveys conducted by the Food Safety Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2023-2025.
The pest status of *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* in Azerbaijan is officially declared as: **Absent, pest no longer present**.

- **Eradication**

In Finland *Phytophthora ramorum* (EPPO A2 List) had been detected sporadically in nurseries and garden centres in *Rhododendron* spp. The NPPO of Finland recently informed the EPPO Secretariat that all outbreaks have been eradicated (NPPO of Finland, 2026).
The pest status of *Phytophthora ramorum* in Finland is officially declared as: **Absent, pest eradicate**d.

- **Aetiology**

Wang *et al.* (2025) showed that the Hadda beetle (*Henosepilachna vigintioctopunctata*) serves as an effective mechanical vector for tomato brown rugose fruit virus (*Tobamovirus fructirugosum*, ToBRFV – EPPO A2 List).

- **New host plants**

Verbena (*Verbena x hybrida*) is first reported as a host of chrysanthemum stunt viroid (*Pospiviroid impedichrysanthemi*, CSVd – EPPO A2 List). It was detected in nursery stock in New Zealand (Guy, 2025).

During a study to detect thrips species between 2023-2024 in lime greenhouses in Sari County (Mazandaran province, Iran), *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae, EPPO A2 List) and *Thrips hawaiiensis* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae, EAEU A1 List) were reported to cause damage to fruit and flowers of Persian lime (*Citrus* × *latifolia*) and limequat (*x Citrofortunella floridana)*. The identity of the pests was confirmed by morphological tests. (Shayanmehr *et al.*, 2025).

A high throughput sequencing analysis of the viromes of *Phalaenopsis* orchids in Fujian province (China) detected the following viruses in *P. amabilis, P. haojili* and *P. hongfugitian:* Odontoglossum ringspot virus (*Tobamovirus odontoglossi*, ORSV), tobacco mosaic virus

(*Tobamovirus tabaci*, TMV), tomato mottle mosaic virus (*Tobamovirus maculatessellati*, ToMMV, formerly EPPO Alert List), pepper mild mottle virus (*Tobamovirus capsici*, PMMoV), plum pox virus (*Potyvirus plumpoxi*, PPV, EPPO A2 List), tobacco etch virus (*Potyvirus nicotianainsculpentis*, TEV). This is the first report of ToMMV, PMMoV, PPV and TEV infecting *Phalaenopsis* orchids. The EPPO Secretariat had no previous record of ToMMV and PPV in Fujian province (Huang *et al.*, 2025).

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Additional key words: new record, detailed record, eradication, absence, new host plants, aetiology

Computer codes: ALTRTR, ANMLOR, AULSYA, CERPRU, CMEV00, COCCVI, CSVD00, CUCV00, DACUTR, DITYDE, DPHNIN, EPILVG, FRANOC, HELTHA, LASPFU, MARUTE, MNSV00, NSPERS, ORSV00, PHYTRA, PHYUMU, PPV000, RAHNVI, TEV000, THRIHA, TMV000, TOBRFV, TOBRFV, TOCV00, TOLCND, TOMMV0, TORTPR, TOUMPA, WMSMOV, AR, AU, AZ, CM, CN, CR, ES, FI, FM, ID, IR, IQ, IT, KE, KZ, JP, MX, NZ, PE, PL, US

2026/026 Update on the situation of quarantine pests in Ukraine

A recent article by Geryak *et al*. (2025) reports the first finding of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae – EPPO A2 List) in Ukraine. One male adult was caught in a light trap in the vicinity of Velyki Dmytrovychi (Kyiv Oblast) in June 2021. The identity of the pest was confirmed based on morphology. No subsequent findings occurred in the region or in Ukraine as a whole in the following years. The authors consider that the specimen probably emerged from a pupa associated with imported material from an infested area. *S. frugiperda* is not considered present in Ukraine. The NPPO of Ukraine recently confirmed that *S. frugiperda* has not been detected during official surveillance.
The pest status of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in Ukraine is officially declared as: **Absent: pest not recorded. Surveillance supports the conclusion that the pest is absent and has not been recorded.**

The NPPO of Ukraine recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the absence of several quarantine pests on its territory:

- *Cacoecimorpha pronubana* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae – EPPO A2 List): **Absent: pest not recorded. Surveillance supports the conclusion that the pest is absent and has not been recorded.**
- *Ralstonia solanacearum* (EPPO A2 List): in 2025, as a result of phytosanitary measures, outbreaks of *Ralstonia solanacearum* were eradicated in Ukraine. The absence of the pest was confirmed by official phytosanitary inspections and tests. **Absent: pest no longer present.**
- Tobacco ringspot virus (*Nepovirus nicotianae,* TRSV - EPPO A2 List): as a result of phytosanitary measures, outbreaks of TRSV were eradicated. The absence of the pest was confirmed by official phytosanitary inspections and tests. **Absent: pest no longer present.**

Finally, the situation of the following quarantine pests is provided, based on the surveillance conducted in 2025**.** For each pest, the number of regions where it is present and the total area of the quarantine zones are given (to the nearest hectare).

- *Phthorimaea absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae – EPPO A2 List): outbreaks in 9 regions, 200 quarantine areas covering 6943 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Mycosphaerella linicola* (formerly EPPO A2 List): outbreaks in 2 regions, 6 quarantine areas covering 7933 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Puccinia horiana* (EPPO A2 List): 1 outbreak in Odesa region, covering 1.5 ha. **Present: transient.**
- *Synchytrium endobioticum* (EPPO A2 List): outbreaks in 3 regions, 163 quarantine areas covering 2229 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Erwinia amylovora* (EPPO A2 List):2 outbreaks in 1 region, covering 14.7 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control**
- Beet necrotic yellow vein virus (*Benyvirus necrobetae*, EPPO A2 List – rhizomania): outbreaks in 2 regions, 2 quarantine areas covering 145 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- Plum pox potyvirus (*Potyvirus plumpoxi*, EPPO A2 List): outbreaks in 5 regions, 32 quarantine areas covering 3700 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Globodera rostochiensis* (EPPO A2 List): outbreaks in 14 regions, 1989 quarantine areas covering 2741 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Asteraceae, EPPO List of IAPs): outbreaks in 25 regions, 2258 quarantine areas covering 2 845 638 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Acroptilon repens* (Asteraceae, EPPO List of IAPs): outbreaks in 5 regions, 154 quarantine areas covering 220 226 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Solanum rostratum* (Solanaceae – EAEU A2 List): 1 outbreak in 1 region, covering 134 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Cuscuta* spp. (Convolvulaceae): outbreaks in 15 regions, 788 quarantine areas covering 28 196 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Cenchrus longispinus* (Poaceae, EPPO Observation list of IAPs): outbreaks in 6 regions, 77 quarantine areas covering 20 132 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**
- *Sorghum halepense* (Poaceae): outbreaks in 2 regions, 9 quarantine areas covering 843 ha. **Present: not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: NPPO of Ukraine (2026-01).
https://www.ippc.int/en/countries/ukraine/publications/

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Additional key words: detailed report, eradication, absence

Computer codes: LAPHFR, RALSSL, TORTPR, TRSV00, 1CVCG, AMBEL, BNYVV0, BNYVV0, CCHLO, CENRE, ERWIAM, GNORAB, HETDRO, MYCOLN, PPV000, PPV000, PUCCHN, SOLRS, SORHA, SYNCEN, UA

2026/027 Updates on pest status in Germany

In 2025, the status of the species recorded in the EPPO Global Database for Germany were reviewed in a project. As of March 2025, a total of 539 pests were listed for Germany of which 83 were absent, 18 transient and 438 were present. A change in status was proposed for 35 organisms.

The EPPO Secretariat has updated the information in Global Database. The following pests (regulated in the EU or listed by EPPO) had their status changed and the new status is given below.

- *Opogona sacchari* (Lepidoptera: Tineidae – EPPO A2 List): Present, few occurrences.
- *Curtobacterium poinsettiae* (formerly EPPO Alert List): Present, few occurrences.
- *Drosophila suzukii* (Diptera: Drosophilidae - EPPO A2 List): Present, widespread.
- *Rhagoletis completa* (Diptera: Tephritidae - formerly EPPO A2 List): Present, widespread.
- *Aproceros leucopoda* (Hymenoptera: Argidae - formerly EPPO Alert List): Present, widespread.
- *Halyomorpha halys* (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae –formerly EPPO Alert List): Present, widespread.
- *Cydalima perspectalis* (Lepidoptera: Crambidae - formerly EPPO Alert List): Present, widespread.
- '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma prunorum' (EU RNQP): Present, widespread.
- *Xanthomonas fragariae* (EPPO A2 List): Present, widespread.
- *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (EU Quarantine pest): Absent, unreliable record.
- *Puccinia horiana* (EPPO A2 List): Present, restricted distribution.
- *Ditylenchus dipsaci* (EPPO A2 List): Present, restricted distribution.
- *Ips amitinus* (EU Quarantine pest): Present, no details.
- *Stephanitis takeyai* (Hemiptera: Tingidae – formerly EPPO Alert List): Present, no details.
- *Radopholus similis* (EPPO A2 List): Present, no details.
- *Ditylenchus destructor* (EU RNQP): Present, no details.
- *Erwinia amylovora* (EPPO A2 List): Present, no details.

Source: NPPO of Germany (2026-01).

Additional key words: detailed record

Computer codes: APRCLE, CORBPO, DITYDE, DITYDI, DPHNPE, DROSSU, ERWIAM, HALYHA, IPSXAM, OPOGSC, PHYPPR, PUCCHN, RADOSI, RHAGCO, STEPTA, THAUPI, XANTFR, DE

2026/028 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 datasheet has been published:

- *Euphorbia davidii* (Euphorbiaceae, EPPO A2 List)
  https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/EPHDV/datasheet

The distribution maps and host lists have been revised for the following pests:

- Chilli leaf curl virus (*Begomovirus chillicapsici*, EU quarantine pest) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CHILCU
- '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma americanum' (EPPO A1 List) https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYPAE

Common names: the Committee on Dutch names of Plant Diseases (Commissie Nederlandse Namen Planteziekten) from the Royal Dutch Society for Plant Pathology has revised existing Dutch names for plant and plant pests in EPPO Global Database and added several hundred names.

Photos: since January 2025, 1500 new photos have been uploaded in the database. Thanks to all photographers who provided their photos.

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2026-02).

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

Computer codes: CHILCU, EPHDV, PHYPAE, NL

2026/029 EPPO PRA training Workshop: Training in essential elements of pest prioritization and PRA (Belgrade, Serbia, 2026-11-02/04)

An EPPO training Workshop on essential elements for Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) will be held on 2026-11-02/04 in Belgrade, Serbia. The aim of the Workshop will be to provide participants with training on essential elements for PRA, including the preliminary prioritization process. The training will be relevant to both plant pests and invasive alien plants. This will be an important opportunity for participants to gain valuable experience in carrying out PRA using the EPPO Decision-Support Scheme for an Express Pest Risk Analysis (EPPO Standard PM 5/5), while at the same time networking with colleagues and working as part of a team on PRA.

Please indicate your interest in attending the workshop by 31st March 2026 using this link: http://meeting.eppo.int/index.php/K9214

For more information, consult our webpage:
https://www.eppo.int/MEETINGS/2026_meetings/wk_pra_training

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2026-02).

Additional key words: conference

Computer codes: RS

2026/030 First report of *Scirtothrips aurantii* in Sicilia (Italy)

The NPPO of Italy recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first suspected finding of *Scirtothrips aurantii* (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EPPO A1 List) on its territory. In January 2026, the Sicilian Regional Plant Protection Service received a report from the Entomology Laboratory of the University of Catania regarding suspected detections of *S. aurantii* in citrus growing areas of Catania and Siracusa provinces in Sicilia region on orange trees (*Citrus* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis)*. The identity of the pest has been confirmed by morphological and molecular tests. Official surveys will be conducted when climatic conditions and the phenological state of plants are suitable for detection of *S. aurantii*.

The official pest status of *Scirtothrips aurantii* in Italy has not yet been determined.

Source: NPPO of Italy (2026-01).

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

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

2026/031 Incursion of *Popillia japonica* in Croatia

The NPPO of Croatia recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first finding of *Popillia japonica* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae – EPPO A2 List) on its territory. In October 2025, during surveillance activities for a scientific project, the Croatian Forest Institute reported the first finding of 1 adult *P. japonica* in a pheromone trap placed in a conservation area: Park Maksimir in Zagreb, Central Croatia region. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological identification in January 2026 by the national reference laboratory. Intensified surveillance is planned for the site in 2026. The source of the pest is unknown.

The official pest status of *Popillia japonica* in Croatia has not yet been determined.

Source: NPPO of Croatia (2026-01).

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

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

2026/032 Further spread of *Amrasca biguttula* in the USA

Amrasca biguttula (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae, EPPO Alert List) was first detected in the USA in Florida in autumn 2024 and in July 2025 in cotton crops in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina (EPPO RS 2025/233). Intensive surveys were conducted in neighbouring states and resulted in further detections of the pest.

- Louisiana: in September 2025, the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has confirmed the presence *Amrasca biguttula* in hibiscus plants at several retail locations across the state. It was then detected in cotton fields in Tensas County.
- North Carolina: in September 2025 it was detected on cotton in Robeson and Scotland Counties.
- Mississippi: in September 2025, detected in cotton fields, first in Hinds County and then in Noxubee, Neshoba, Oktibbeha and Forrest Counties.

- Tennessee: listed by Texas (see below) as a state where the pest is present. No other records found.
- Texas: the Texas Department of Agriculture has enacted emergency phytosanitary measures to stop the spread of *Amrasca biguttula*. The quarantine applies to shipments from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, South Carolina, and North Carolina, where the pest has been detected. The quarantine also includes all counties within Texas where the pest has been reported. As of October 2025, quarantined Texas counties were as follows: Bexar, Brazoria, Brazos, Cameron, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Bend, Galveston, McLennan, Nueces and Victoria.

A recent article by Attia and Joseph (2026) documents the presence of *A. biguttula* in ornamental nurseries in Georgia causing damage on *Hibiscus syriacus*.

Finally, phylogenetic analysis (Ahmed *et al.*, 2026) showed that introduction in the USA and China are recent and that South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan) is the putative native range.

Source: Ahmed MZ, Yadav N, Rustgi S, Saripalli G, Esquivel IL, Bryant TB, Graham S, Jacobson AL, Gireesh M, Joseph SV, Del Pozo-Valdivia A (2026) Global phylogeography of *Amrasca biguttula* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) across eight countries reveals a single-haplotype incursion into the United States beyond its putative native range. *Journal of Applied Entomology* (early view).

Attia S, Joseph SV (2026) Incidence of the Two-Spotted Cotton Leafhopper (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) infesting Hibiscus syriacus in ornamentals. *Agronomy* **16**(1), 32. https://doi.org/10.3390/agronomy16010032

Collins-Smith S (2025-09-23) Invasive pest confirmed in Mississippi cotton. https://extension.msstate.edu/news/feature-story/2025/invasive-pest-confirmed-mississippi-cotton

Reising D, Collins G (2025-09) Invasive cotton jassid arrives in North Carolina cotton. https://cotton.ces.ncsu.edu/2025/09/invasive-cotton-jassid-arrives-in-north-carolina-cotton/

Villagas J, Dawson K (2025-09-15) Cotton jassid detected in Louisiana: monitoring intensifies as pest spreads across the southeast. https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1757979892313

Dawson K, Villagas J (2025-10-08) Cotton Jassids detected in Tensas parish cotton fields https://www.lsuagcenter.com/articles/page1759931145787

Vyavhare S, Kerns D, Santiago-Gonzalez J, Porter P (2025-09) Update on the cotton jassid: a new pest of concern in Texas cotton. ENTO-PU-247. Texas Agrilife Extension

Amrasca biguttula https://www.texasinvasives.org/pest_database/detail.php?symbol=61.

Pictures: *Amrasca biguttula*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/EMPOBI/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** EMPOBI, US

2026/033 Update on the situation of *Tecia solanivora* in Spain

In Spain, the Guatemalan potato moth *Tecia solanivora* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae – EPPO A2 List) was first found in Islas Canarias in 1999 (EPPO RS 2001/129). In 2015, it was observed in mainland Spain in Galicia (EPPO RS 2015/202) and later in Asturias (EPPO RS 2017/080).

An eradication programme has been implemented and includes the prohibition of growing potatoes in the demarcated areas. The pest was successfully eradicated from Asturias in 2023 (RS 2023/134).

In Galicia, several municipalities of A Coruña province are no longer considered to be infested zones and have become buffer zones, since *T. solanivora* has not been detected in them for 2 consecutive years. There are no longer demarcated areas in the province of Lugo. As of January 2026, the infested zone includes 4 parishes belonging to 3 municipalities in the province of A Coruña (Abegondo, Carral, Fene). The eradication programme continues in the remaining infested areas.

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

Source: NPPO of Spain (2026-01).

A map of the demarcated areas is available in Resolución do 15 de xaneiro de 2026, da Dirección Xeral de Gandaría, Agricultura e Industrias Agroalimentarias, pola que se actualizan as zonas demarcadas pola presenza da praga de corentena *da Tecia solanivora* Povolny, ou couza guatemalteca da pataca, na Comunidade Autónoma de Galicia. *DOG 18, 7876*
https://www.xunta.gal/dog/Publicados/2026/20260128/AnuncioG0426-190126-0003_gl.html

Pictures: *Tecia solanivora*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TECASO/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** TECASO, ES

2026/034 First report of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* in Argentina

The red palm weevil, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae - EPPO A2 List), is a damaging pest of palm that recently established in South America, in southern Uruguay (EPPO RS 2024/191).

R. ferrugineus was first reported in Argentina in January 2026. Adult and juvenile *R. ferrugineus* were reported to cause damage on a Canary Island date palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) on Martín García Island, Buenos Aires Province, Pampas region. The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological tests. Official phytosanitary measures have been implemented according to the national contingency plan for red palm weevil, they include the declaration of a Phytosanitary Emergency that will remain in place until June 2027, and implementation of prevention, surveillance and control measures including application of plant protection products.

The situation of *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* in Argentina can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and under official control.**

Source: Legislación y Avisos Oficiales (2026) SERVICIO NACIONAL DE SANIDAD Y CALIDAD AGROALIMENTARIA. Resolución 133/2026. RESOL-2026-133-APN-PRES. SENASA
https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/338188/20260205

INTERNET
- Argentina.gob.ar website. Se detectó la presencia de picudo rojo de las palmeras en la Isla Martín García (2026-01-30). https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-detecto-la-presencia-de-picudo-rojo-de-las-palmeras-en-la-isla-martin-garcia

Pictures: *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/RHYCFE/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** RHYCFE, AR

2026/035 Alien species of Auchenorrhyncha reported in Austria

Several species of Auchenorrhyncha (Hemiptera) are first reported from Austria:

- *Pochazia shantungensis* (Hemiptera: Ricaniidae – EPPO Alert List) was observed in 2023 in Vienna and in 2024 in Styria and Vorarlberg.

- *Bamboosella dimorpha* (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae) was first recorded in 2021 in Vienna. This species feeds on bamboos and probably originates in Asia. It has also been recently reported from France, Italy, Slovenia and Switzerland and is considered as a potential vector of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma (EPPO A2 List).

- The North American grape leafhopper *Erasmoneura vulnerata* was observed in 2022 in Carinthia and in 2023 in Styria. It had previously been recorded from Italy, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland (EPPO RS 2021/084, RS 2021/174)

Kunz et al. (2025) also reports the further spread of several recently introduced species including *Acanalonia conica, Graphocephala fennahi, Hishimonus hamatus*.

Source: Kunz G, Kern E, Lind E, Timaeus L, Holzinger WE, Huber E, Schlosser L, Zobel K, van Klink R (2025) New and remarkable true hoppers (Hemiptera, Auchenorrhyncha) from Austria, with a special focus on Styria. Natura Styriaca 1, 354-361.

Sanna F, Holzinger WE, Cavagna F, Callot H, Webb MD (2025) A new leafhopper genus and species on bamboo, described from Europe (Hemiptera, Cicadellidae, Deltocephalinae, Mukariini), with remarkable seasonal dimorphism. *Zootaxa* **5588**(2), 323–338.

Additional key words: new reports **Computer codes:** ACNLCO, BAMSDI, HISHHA, GRCPFE, POCZSH, AT

2026/036 New pest records in Greece

Two mites (Acari: Tetranychidae), *Oligonychus perseae* (formerly EPPO Alert List) and *Oligonychus punicae* are first reported from Greece. They were observed in April 2024 on avocado (*Persea americana*) crops in Crete.
O. perseae was first observed in Zounaki (Chania district) and by autumn of 2024, it rapidly spread across nearly all regions where avocados are cultivated in the western and coastal part of Crete. So far, the damage in orchards remains below economic damage thresholds.
Oligonychus punicae (Acari: Tetranychidae) was observed in Agia village and remained localized in a few orchards.
Bitsakis et al. (2026) considered that the pests were likely to have been introduced with avocado plants for planting from Spain.

Echinothrips americanus (Thysanoptera: Thripidae – EAEU A1 List) was first recorded in Greece in 2023. The thrips infested *Rhoicissus rhombifolia* plants in Attiki (Lytra *et al.*, 2025).

Source: Bitsakis D, Petrakis I, Stathakis T, Kapaxidi E, Varikou K, Papachristos D (2026) New records of Tetranychidae (Prostigmata) in avocado crops in Crete, Greece. *Hellenic Plant Protection Journal* **19**, 26-32. DOI 10.2478/hppj-2026-0004

Lytra IC, Markoyiannaki DM, Milonas PG (2025) First record of the poinsettia thrips *Echinothrips americanus* Morgan (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) in Greece. *Hellenic Plant Protection Journal* **18**, 79-82.

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** ECHTAM, OLIGPA, OLIGPU, GR

2026/037 First report of *Oligonychus yothersi* in Europe

Oligonychus yothersi (Acari: Tetranychidae) is a highly polyphagous spider mite reported from the Americas, China and Iran. It has been reported on over 80 host plant species, from over 40 families. It has been reported to cause damage to many economically important hosts, including mango (*Mangifera indica*), avocado (*Persea americana*), coffee (*Coffea arabica),* rose (*Rosa* sp.), apple (*Malus domestica*), and chestnut (*Castanea sativa*).

O. yothersi was recently reported for the first time in Europe, infesting a wide range of host plants in the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), Islas Canarias (Spain), and Sicilia (Italy). Infested plants showed symptomatic rusting and chlorotic leaves.

- Azores and Madeira (Portugal)

Following surveys in 2015 and 2024 in the Azores, *O. yothersi* was reported on Faial, Flores, Pico and São Miguel islands. Limited damage was reported. *O. yothersi* was reported on *Acacia melanoxylon, Camellia japonica*, C. sativa, Lycium europaeum*, M. domestica, Myrica faya*, Persea indica*, Pittosporum undulatum*, Platanus* x *hispanica*, Plumeria alba*, Quercus palustris*, Quercus robur*, Reynoutria japonica*, Rhododendron indicum*, Rosa* sp.*, Vitis* sp.*,* and *Vitis vinifera*.

Following surveys in 2022 on the Madeira archipelago, *O. yothersi* was reported on *Annona cherimola*, Laurus novocanariensis** and mango on Madeira island.

- Islas Canarias (Spain)

O. yothersi was found during surveys conducted in 2006 on myrtle (*Myrtus communis**) on the island of Tenerife.

- Sicilia (Italy)

Following surveys in Palermo and Messina provinces, in April and July 2025, a high level of infestation and damage was reported on cultivated mango in both provinces.

The identity of the pest was confirmed by morphological and molecular testing. Borges Silva *et al.* (2025) consider that introduction was most likely through plant trade.
Borges Silva *et al.* (2025) note that *O. yothersi* does not cause major damage in Islas Canarias, Azores and Madeira, and that the species may have been introduced several years ago. On the contrary, in Sicilia, *O. yothersi* is damaging on mango and its introduction is likely to be recent and result from a single introduction.

* indicates newly reported hosts

Source: Borges Silva L, Migeon A, Auger P, Andolina F, Ferragut F, Giordano T, Naves P, Silva L, Tsolakis H, Navia D (2025) The spider mite *Oligonychus yothersi* (Acari: Tetranychidae), a new alien pest in Europe: joint records from insular Portugal, Spain and Italy revealed by integrative taxonomy. *Acarologia* **65**(4), 1213-1224. https://doi.org/10.24349/vjai-u7f7

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** PARTYO, PT, IT, ES

2026/038 The 'Réunion' planthopper *Euroxenus vayssieresi* (Hemiptera: Issidae) a potential emerging pest of Solanaceae in the tropics

The 'Réunion' planthopper *Euroxenus vayssieresi* (Hemiptera: Issidae) is a species first described from La Réunion island in 2001. In 2021-2022, it was reported for the first time in Ghana, Hawaii (US) and in northern Australia.
It is suspected that the insect has been introduced to these locations via transport of plant material.
In Australia *E. vayssieresi* was first observed in March 2021 in Cairns (Queensland) on a Thai eggplant plant (*Solanum melongena*) and in 2022 on a number of plants, notably red basil (*Ocimum basilicum*) and cherry tomato (*S. lycopersicum*). In September 2022, it was detected in Darwin Botanical Gardens (Northern Territory), 1670 km away from Cairns.
E. vayssieresi has a wide host range encompassing at least 25 plant species across 20 families.
Moir *et al*. (2026) note that there is a growing number of recent public reports of *E. vayssieresi* made through the website iNaturalist across India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, China, the Philippines and Taiwan, although these occurrences need to be confirmed. These reports suggest that either *E. vayssieresi* originates from these countries, or that the species is rapidly moving across the tropics, and that it may be a newly invasive pest species. Climate modelling suggests that this species may establish in tropical areas.

Source: Moir ML, Schneider IC, Gorton MJ, Bertazzoni S (2026) Is the 'Réunion' planthopper *Euroxenus vayssieresi* (Hemiptera: Issidae) a new emerging invasive pest species spreading across the tropics? *Austral Entomology* **65**(1), e70039.

Pictures: *Euroxenus vayssieresi*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/EURXVA/photos

Additional key words: new pest, new record **Computer codes:** EURXVA, AU, GH, RE, US

2026/039 First report of citrus yellow vein clearing virus in Spain

The NPPO of Spain recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the first findings of citrus yellow vein clearing virus (*Potexvirus citriflavivenae,* CYVCV, EPPO Alert List) on its territory in the autonomous communities of Cataluña and Comunidad Valenciana.

- Cataluña

Following reports from a grower and a private individual, an inspection was conducted and samples taken in September 2025 in lemon (*Citrus x limon*) trees from a plantation and an urban orchard, both in the municipality of La Galera (Tarragona province). Two trees from the plantation and one for the orchard tested positive for CYVCV (by RT-PCR) The affected plants were destroyed. Surveys were then conducted for all citrus operators in the area, and 85 positive samples were detected from 13 nurseries on lemon and Persian lime (*Citrus* x *latifolia*) in 3 other municipalities in Tarragona province (Alcanar, Freginals, Ulldecona). Some plants showed symptoms, but most were asymptomatic. All infected plants and lots will be destroyed.

- Comunidad Valenciana

Following random sampling for the detection of citrus tristeza virus (*Closterovirus tristezae,* CTV, EPPO A2 List) in citrus plants, 22 trees from 8 plantations in Castellón and Valencia provinces tested positive by RT-PCR testing for CYVCV in September to October 2025. All plants (*Citrus* x *aurantium* var. *clementina*, C. reticulata, C.* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis, C.* x *limon, C.* x *latifolia, C.* x *aurantium* var. *unshiu, Citroncirus* sp.*) were asymptomatic. Further surveys were conducted in citrus nurseries in these areas, and 22 positive plants were found among 15 lots and mother plants from 6 operators in 4 municipalities in Castellón province. The plants which tested positive and corresponding lots (9949 plants in total) will be destroyed.

Testing was also conducted by the Valencian Institute of Agricultural Research in its germplasm bank on citrus material (*Citrus* x *limon, Citrus reticulata, Citroncirus* sp., *Citrus* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis)*. Six samples tested positive for CYVCV. All samples were asymptomatic.

Vectors of CYVCV, *Aphis aurantii, A. gossypii, A. spiraecola* and *Dialeurodes citri,* occur in Spain.

As limited impact has been observed, and many *Citrus* plants were asymptomatic, no demarcated area has been established. A decision on official phytosanitary measures is pending. Precautionary phytosanitary measures have been applied, including surveys across Comunidad Valenciana and other citrus producing areas to understand the spread and damage of CYVCV in Spain. Plant protection products will be applied in positive plots when vectors are active. Traceback and forward investigations are ongoing on all positive lots from nurseries in Cataluña and Comunidad Valenciana. The source of the outbreak remains unknown.

The pest status of citrus yellow vein clearing virus in Spain is officially declared as: **Present, actionable, under surveillance.**

*indicates newly reported hosts

Source: NPPO of Spain (2026-02).

INTERNET

PHYTOMA-España. La Comunidad Valenciana activa las medidas de prevención ante el nuevo virus de los cítricos (2026-02-06). https://www.phytoma.com/noticias/noticias-de-actualidad/la-comunidad-valenciana-activa-las-medidas-de-prevencion-ante-el-nuevo-virus-citricola

Pictures: *Potexvirus citriflavivenae*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CSYV00/photos

Additional key words: new record **Computer codes:** CSYV00, ES

2026/040 Update on the situation of citrus yellow vein clearing virus in Italy

In Italy, citrus yellow vein clearing virus (*Potexvirus citriflavivenae,* CYVCV, EPPO Alert List) was first reported in 2024 on symptomatic lemon (*Citrus* x *limon)* and asymptomatic sweet orange (*Citrus* x *aurantium* var. *sinensis*) in Campania region (EPPO RS 2024/151).

In spring 2024, 4–5-year-old potted lemon (*C.* x *limon*) plants showing vein clearing and leaf deformation were observed in a commercial nursery in Latina province (Lazio region). The identity of the pest was confirmed by RT-PCR. A virome analysis was conducted on one lemon plant by high-throughput sequencing and showed that the sample was co-infected with iris domestica betaflexivirus 1 (IDBV), and hop stunt viroid (*Hostuviroid impedihumuli*, HSVd – EU RNQP). This is the first report of CYVCV in Lazio region. This is also the first report of IDBV in lemon.

Source: Kwak M, Kil EJ, De Stradis A, Parrella G (2026) Virome analysis of lemon plants with vein clearing symptoms reveals mixed infection of citrus vein clearing virus, iris domestica betaflexivirus 1 and hop stunt viroid. *Viruses* **18**(1), 141 https://doi.org/10.3390/v18010141

Pictures: *Potexvirus citriflavivenae*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/CSYV00/photos

Additional key words: detailed record **Computer codes:** CSYV00, HSVD00, IT

2026/041 New haplotypes of *Synchytrium endobioticum* in the Netherlands

In 2025 two new pathotypes of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (potato wart disease, EPPO A2 List) were detected in the Netherlands on starch potato (*Solanum tuberosum*). One was found in an infested field in autumn 2023. The pathotype P 42(Erica) was confirmed in April 2025 using the Spieckermann method on a range of differentials that included an additional cultivar (Seresta). Mid-May 2025 another new pathotype was suspected for which the pathotype determination is to be confirmed. Wart spores of two earlier findings in 2022 were used for infection and caused wart formation on the cultivar Belita, which was so far known for its resistance against all known pathotypes of wart disease in the Netherlands.

The NPPO considers that the rapid development of these new pathotypes in addition to the finding of P38-Nevşehir in 2021 (EPPO RS 2021/200) in the Netherlands is worrying as no or very limited resistant varieties of potato are available for growers. To date, these new pathotypes have only been recorded in starch potato production. Awareness has been raised amongst growers and packing stations to pay close attention to prevention and report any suspicion of wart disease. An adjustment of the measures in the starch potato production area is being considered.

The pest status of *Synchytrium endobioticum* in the Netherlands is officially declared as: **Present, under eradication, only in demarcated areas**.

Source: NPPO of the Netherlands (2026-02).

Pictures: *Synchytrium endobioticum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SYNCEN/photos

Additional key words: detailed report **Computer codes:** SYNCEN, NL

2026/042 Outbreaks of *Synchytrium endobioticum* in the EPPO region

The EPPO Secretariat has summarized below the new outbreaks of *Synchytrium endobioticum* (potato wart disease, EPPO A2 List) reported from EPPO countries in 2025, and the official pest status.

- **Czechia**: one outbreak in a small field of potato grown for personal consumption in Pokojov municipality (Jihovýchod region).

Present, in specific parts of the Member State, where host crop(s) are grown, under eradication.

- **Germany**: during official surveys in 2025, several outbreaks in Bavaria (on ware potato for industrial processing and ware potato for consumption), 1 outbreak on seed potato. The pathotype identification for the outbreak on seed potato has revealed that this is a new pathotype which has not been described so far in the EU.

Present, few occurrences, at low prevalence, under eradication.

- **Italy**: one outbreak in a small field of potato grown for personal consumption in Sant'Orsola Terme (Trento region) detected in August 2025. The NPPO notes that the disease was reported in Italy in the early 1970s only in a limited outbreak in Valtellina from which the pest was eradicated.

Present, in specific parts of the Member State, where host crop(s) are grown, under eradication.

Source: NPPO of Italy (2025-09).
NPPO of Germany (2025-12).
NPPO of Czechia (2025-10).

Pictures: *Synchytrium endobioticum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SYNCEN/photos

Additional key words: detailed report **Computer codes:** SYNCEN, CZ, DE, IT

2026/043 *Fusarium foetens* is extending its host range and distribution

Fusarium foetens (EPPO A2 List) was added to the EPPO List in 2007 because it causes a major disease on Hiemalis begonias (*Begonia* × *hiemalis* or begonia elatior hybrids). Since then, it was reported from new host plants and seems to have extended its distribution, with

findings on potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) in China (EPPO RS 2023/237) and on rooibos (*Aspalathus linearis*) in South Africa (RS 2023/238).

The following new reports were found in recent literature. It may be noted that *F. foetens* is usually found in association with other *Fusarium* species.

In China, *F. foetens* was observed causing root and stem rots in tobacco plants (*Nicotiana tabacum*) in Guizhou Province (Yi *et al.*, 2025) and in Jilin (Xie *et al.*, 2025). It is also associated with root rot of honeyberry plants (*Lonicera caerulea)* in Jilin *(*Qiao *et al.*, 2025).

In Colombia, *Fusarium foetens* is reported to cause stem rot in pitahaya crops (*Selenicereus megalanthus*) (Masmela Mendoza *et al.*, 2026).

In Egypt, *F. foetens* and *Fusarium falciforme* are reported to cause root rot and wilt of schefflera plants (*Heptapleurum arboricola)* (Imara *et al.*, 2024)

In Korea Republic, *F. foetens* was reported as one of the *Fusarium* species involved in potato dry rot disease, together with *F. citricola*, and *F. solani* (Kim *et al.*, 2024)

In Saudi Arabia *F. foetens* was reported on symptomatic tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) plants growing in nurseries and greenhouses in the Qasim and Riyadh provinces in July 2023. Pathogenicity tests confirmed that *F. oxysporum, F. foetens, Ectophoma multirostrata* and *Pygmaeomyces thomasii* were causal agents of tomato root rot and wilting (Hamed *et al.*, 2026).

In Tunisia, *F. foetens* is associated with fungal disease of chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*) in several regions (Ben Romdhane *et al.*, 2025)

In Zimbabwe, *F. foetens* was reported as one of the *Fusarium* species causing wilt of potato and tobacco (Chinheya *et al.*, 2024).

Source:

Ben Romdhane S, Weinmann M, Babalola OO, Mrabet M (2025) Distribution and pathogenicity of Cicer arietinum infecting fungi in Tunisian agricultural lands. *Botany* 103,1-13.

Chinheya CC, Sagonda T, Karavina C, Marunda M, Jere J, Zvobgo G, Marwa T, Dimbi S (2024) Genetic diversity of *Fusarium* isolates infecting potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) and tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) crops in Zimbabwe. *African Journal of Biotechnology* **23**(3), 121-130.

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Pictures: *Fusarium foetens*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/

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

Computer codes: FUSAFO, NCOSFA, PHOMMU, FUSAOX, CN, CO, EG, KR, SA, TN, ZW

2026/044 First report of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma in Bulgaria

The NPPO of Bulgaria recently informed the EPPO Secretariat of the detection of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma (EPPO A2 List) in grapevine on its territory. The phytoplasma had previously been detected in wild plants of *Clematitis vitalba* and *Ailanthus altissima*.

In September 2025, a vineyard owner in Svishtov (Veliko Tarnovo province, Northern and Eastern Bulgaria region) noticed symptoms of phytoplasma infection on grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*) and informed a research institute who confirmed the presence of the pathogen and reported the finding to the NPPO of Bulgaria. The identity of the pathogen was confirmed by molecular testing at the National Reference Laboratory in December 2025. The infested area is 20.66 ha.
The vector *Scaphoideus titanus* is known to occur in Bulgaria but its presence in the infested area has not been confirmed.

Official phytosanitary measures are implemented to eradicate the pest. They include restriction on the movement of host plants in the demarcated area. Intensive surveys will be conducted to detect the presence of the phytoplasma and *S. titanus*. Trace-back investigations are ongoing.

The pest status of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma in Bulgaria is officially declared as: **Present, in specific parts of the Member State, where host crop(s) are grown.**

Source: NPPO of Bulgaria (2026-02).

Pictures: Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/PHYP64/photos

Additional key words: new record

Computer codes: PHYP64, BG

2026/045 Update on the situation of beech leaf disease in the USA

In the USA, beech leaf disease caused by *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii* (EPPO Alert List) is now recorded in 16 states. Recent records include:

- Delaware: first detected in 2023. Since then, it has spread rapidly through much of New Castle County and across the state.
- Vermont: first detected in October 2023 in Windham County. It has since spread to six out of the 14 Vermont counties.
- North Carolina: detected in one county in 2025.

Source: Delaware Forest Service. Beech Leaf Disease An emerging threat to Delaware's Forests https://agriculture.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/108/2025/12/Delaware-Forest-Service-1.pdf

Kantor C, Demirel MC, Kantor M (2025) Unveiling the threat of beech leaf disease: lessons from North America. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* **8**, 1606260. https://doi.org/10.3389/ffgc.2025.1606260

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Pictures: *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/LITYMC/photos /

Additional key words: detailed report **Computer codes:** LITYMC, US

2026/046 First report of *Globodera rostochiensis* in Tanzania

The potato cyst nematode, *Globodera rostochiensis* (EPPO A2 List) is first reported from Tanzania. It was first reported in neighbouring countries in Kenya in 2015 (EPPO RS 2015/129), Rwanda in 2019 (RS 2019/177), Uganda in 2020 (RS 2020/121).
In November 2019, potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) fields were sampled in Arusha and Kilimanjaro regions in the north of Tanzania (near the border to Kenya) and 6 in Mbeya region in the south of Tanzania (near the border to Malawi). Cysts were recovered from 10 fields in the north and 3 in the south, but only samples from 5 fields were identified as *G. rostochiensis* by molecular tests. In May 2024, another 20 potato fields were sampled in the north and cysts detected in 8 fields were identified as *G. rostochiensis*.
The situation of *Globodera rostochiensis* in Tanzania can be described as: **Present, not widely distributed and not under official control**.

Source: Nzogela YB, Maosa J, Couvreur M, Katemani M, Gervas C, Nguku B, Luambano N, Kashando B, Coyne D, Jones JT, Haukeland S (2026) First report of potato cyst nematode, *Globodera rostochiensis*, infecting potato (*Solanum tuberosum*) in Tanzania. *Plant Disease* (early view) https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-09-25-1991-PDN

Pictures: *Globodera rostochiensis*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/HETDRO/photos

Additional key words: new report **Computer codes:** HETDRO, TZ

2026/047 Biological control strategies for *Xylella fastidiosa*

Xylella fastidiosa (EPPO A2 List) is a xylem-limited bacterium that is transmitted by xylem-fluid feeding insects. Biological control methods have the potential to (1) limit or control the bacterium in the host and (2) to control the insect vectors of *X. fastidiosa*. Some research has been undertaken to evaluate biological control of the bacterium where it has been shown that some endophytic species can reduce the virulence of *X. fastidiosa* in the host, by competing with the pathogen for niche availability or through the production of compounds that effect its pathogenicity. However, in general, the efficacy of endophytic candidates is inconsistent across different host plant species and environmental conditions. For the biological control of *X. fastidiosa* vectors, predatory insect species such as *Zelus renardii* (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) have been shown to reduce *Philaenus spumarius* (Hemiptera: Aphrophoridae) populations which in turn has been shown to reduce the incidence of *X. fastidiosa* in olive trees. Fungal pathogens such as *Akanthomyces muscarius* (Hypocreales) and *Beauveria bassiana* (Hypocreales) are effective against *P. spumarius*. Egg parasitoids such as *Gonatocerus* spp. (Hymenoptera) have been shown to reduce vector populations by up to 95% following their release. Research into the biological control of *X. fastidiosa* and integration of this with other management practices is ongoing in the EPPO region.

Source: Mourou M, Incampo G, Carlucci M, Salamone D, Pollastro S, Faretra F, Nigro F (2025) Insight into biological strategies and main challenges to control the phytopathogenic bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 16, 1608687. https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2025.1608687

Additional key words: biocontrol

Computer codes: BEAUBA, 1GONTG, LCNCMU, PHILSU, XYLEFA, ZELURE

2026/048 Biological control strategies for *Phthorimaea absoluta*

Phthorimaea absoluta (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae – EPPO A2 List) is mainly a pest of tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) but also affects other economically important hosts. Biological control methods have been implemented against the pest including augmentative, classical, and conservation biological control. Entomopathogenic bacteria, fungi, nematodes and viruses can be used against different life stages of *P. absoluta*. *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bacillaceae) has shown to be effective against larval stages under greenhouse conditions whereas *Beauveria bassiana* (Hypocreales) and *Metarhizium anisopliae* (Hypocreales) can cause mortality to both the larvae and adults through contact and ingestion. Entomopathogenic nematodes, e.g., *Steinernema carpocapsae* (Rhabditida: Steinernematidae, Augmentative BCA, PM6/3) and *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* (Rhabditida: Heterorhabditidae, Augmentative BCA, PM6/3) produce a high level of mortality (up to 98 %) to *P. absoluta*, either on their own or in combination. The entomopathogenic virus, *Phthorimaea operculella granulovirus* can reduce larval damage on the host and can be used in combination with parasitoids or predators. Egg parasitoids such as *Necremnus* spp. (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) can attack early instar larvae and can be used alone or in combination to achieve reduced damage. *Macrolophus pygmaeus* (Hemiptera: Miridae, Augmentative BCA, PM6/3) and *Nesidiocoris tenuis* (Heteroptera: Miridae) are widely used predators which can supress populations by attacking eggs and early larvae stages. Careful use of biological control practices in Integrated Pest

Management for the control of *P. absoluta* can act to reduce chemical pesticide application in greenhouse and field conditions.

Source: Maake TW, Sibisi P (2006) Biological control strategies for management of invasive pest *Phthorimaea absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae). *Egyptian Journal of Biological Pest Control* **36**, 8. https://doi.org/10.1186/s41938-025-00888-7

Additional key words: biocontrol

Computer codes: BACITH, BEAUBA, HETOBA, MTRHAN, NEAPCA, 1NCRMG, MACLNU,

2026/049 IOBC WPRS workshop on benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents (Trento, IT, 2026-09-14/17)

The 6th Workshop of the International Organisation for Biological and Integrated Control West Palaearctic Regional Section (IOBC WPRS) on benefits and risks of exotic biological control agents (BREBCA) will be held in Trento, Italy from the 14th to the 17th of September 2026. Sessions will include:

- From risk assessment to governance of exotic biological control agents (EBCAs),
- Rapid and responsible deployment of EBCAs,
- Ecological interactions and long-term dynamics of EBCAs,
- Innovative tools and approaches for EBCAs safety and specificity,
- Integrating EBCAs into sustainable pest management systems,
- Emerging issues and cross-cutting perspectives in biological control.

Early registration is open until 29th April and late registration until 30th June.

Conference website: https://sites.google.com/fmach.it/brebca-2026

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2026-02)

Additional key words: biocontrol, conference

Computer codes: IT

2026/050 *Senecio deltoideus* in the EPPO region: addition to the EPPO Alert List

Why
Senecio deltoideus (Asteraceae) is recorded as an established species in the EPPO region where it can form dense stands which can negatively impact biodiversity and ecosystem services. The EPPO Panel on Invasive Alien Plants are seeking further information on any additional occurrences of *S. deltoideus* the EPPO region.

Geographical distribution
EPPO region: France, Italy, Spain
Africa: Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe

Morphology
Stems are generally smooth but may be sparsely hairy with fine hairs in some specimens. Leaves are broadly spear-shaped to narrowly triangular, up to 100 mm long and 50 mm wide, but often much smaller, generally without hairs, or the lower surface with fine hairs. Leaf margins are irregularly toothed. Flower heads are grouped in small or large clusters and can be with or without ray florets. Flower heads generally have 1-4 ray florets.

Biology and Ecology
Senecio deltoideus is a vigorous perennial climbing herb with zigzag branching which flowers during the winter months in the EPPO region (December to March).

Habitats
In the native range (in eastern and southern Africa), *S. deltoideus* is a species of open terrain, such as bracken and scrub land or found in montane grassland. In the EPPO region, it grows mainly in open vegetation, in Mediterranean grassland and shrubs and in forest clearings.

Pathways for movement
Plants for planting: *S. deltoideus* is traded as a garden ornamental plant in the EPPO region. The species can potentially be misidentified in trade for other similar looking species (e.g. *Delairea odorata* (Asteraceae, EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants), *Senecio angulatus* (EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants), *S. macroglossus* and *S. tamoides*). Plant material can be discarded as garden waste. Natural spread is by wind dispersed seed and spread from stems that can be broken and fragmented – these fragments leading to new viable plants and new populations.

Impacts
Senecio deltoideus can form dense mats smothering native plants and reducing regeneration. It can compete with native species by reducing light availability for species on the ground. *Senecio* species in general are known to be toxic to livestock and humans.

Control
Management measures have been evaluated in protected areas in the EPPO region, where natural-herbicide products, flame-weeding, mulching and mowing were all shown to be effective when repeated during and between seasons.

Source: Fried G (2010) Prioritization of potential invasive alien plants in France. In: Proceedings of the 2nd International workshop on invasive plants in the Mediterranean type regions of the world. pp. 120-134. EPPO, Trabzon, Turkey.

Iamonico D (2017) Alien taxa of the tribe Senecioneae (Asteraceae) in Italy: a nomenclatural synopsis. *Hacquetia*, **16**, 281-292.

Minuto L, Casazza G, Dagnino D, Guerrina M, Macri C, Mariotti MG (2021) Management of an invasive plant in a mediterranean protected area: the experience of *Senecio deltoideus* in Italy. *Annali di Botanica*, 2020, **11**, 1-12. ff10.13133/2239-3129/16852

Pictures *Senecio deltoideus*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/SENDE/photos

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

2026/051 Allelopathic effects of invasive alien plants on native Mediterranean plant species

Acacia dealbata (Fabaceae, EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants) and *Hakea decurrens* subsp. *physocarpa* (Proteaceae, EPPO A2 list) are both native to Australia and are invasive alien plants in south-western Europe, where they have colonized Mediterranean habitats and displaced native flora. Both species can have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services changing the structural diversity of the habitats they invade. The potential allelopathic effects of *A. dealbata* and *H. decurrens* subsp. *physocarpa* was studied on two common Mediterranean native species; *Cistus ladanifer* (Cistaceae) and *Lavandula stoechas* (Lamiaceae). Leaf extracts from each invasive alien plant were formulated into aqueous solutions at varying concentrations and applied to petri dishes which contained seeds of each native species. The results showed that *A. dealbata* and *H. decurrens* subsp. *physocarpa* exert significant allelopathic effects on *C. ladanifer* and *L. stoechas* at various early stages of development including germination, hypocotyl emergence and root growth when the aqueous extracts were at high concentrations. However, even at low concentrations, negative effects were still seen. The study shows that these two invasive alien plants can have allelopathic impacts on native plant species which promote their establishment at the detriment of the native plant community.

Source: Nogales L, Chaves N, Blanco-Salas J, Mateos L, Rubio LV, Alías JC (2025) Allelopathic effect of the invasive species *Acacia dealbata* Link and *Hakea decurrens* R.Br., subsp. *physocarpa* on native Mediterranean scrub species. *Plants* **14**, 3685. https://doi.org/10.3390/plants14233685

Pictures *Acacia dealbata*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ACADA/photos

Additional key words: invasive alien plants **Computer codes:** ACADA, CSTLA, HKADF, LAVST

2026/052 Effects of *Rhododendron ponticum* on the forest understory

Rhododendron ponticum (Ericaceae: EPPO Observation List of invasive alien plants) is frequently grown as an ornamental species in parks and gardens in the EPPO region. However, in some areas it can be a highly invasive species with detrimental impacts on native plants. It has the potential to transform habitats changing the structure and species composition. As a woody shrub, it can invade forest understories and change the characteristics of the habitat including decomposition rates on the forest floor and other soil parameters. A study was undertaken in a woodland in northern France to assess the impact of *R. ponticum* on the understory microclimate including soil carbon transformation. In 30 plots, 15 invaded and 15 uninvaded, measurements were made on structural plant parameters and abiotic microhabitat measurements. The results showed that *R. ponticum* can alter microclimatic conditions in invaded sites by reducing light availability, the daily temperature range and soil moisture. However, even though the microclimate under *R.*

ponticum was drier and more isolated compared to uninvaded sites, these parameters did not have an effect on carbon transformation. The study showed that the leaf litter from *R. ponticum* has more influence on carbon cycling as the leaves take longer to break down compared to native litter decomposition.

Source: Le Jeune E, Guiller A, Spincher F, Horen H (2026) How does the invasion of forests by *Rhododendron ponticum* disrupt the transformation of carbon in soils? *Biological Invasions* **28**, 43. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10530-025-03745-8
Pictures *Rhododendron ponticum*. https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/RHOPO/photos

Additional key words: invasive alien plants **Computer codes:** RHOPO, FR

2026/053 New records of non-native plants in Tenerife (Spain)

New floristic surveys in Tenerife (Islas Canarias, Spain) have resulted in new records for the island.

***Bacopa monnieri* (Plantaginaceae)**
Bacopa monnieri is a perennial species which has a pantropical native range. Two patches of *B. monnieri* were found growing as a lawn weed in Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Additional populations were observed in abundance along the margins of an artificial pond in Parque de La Vega (La Laguna). *B. monnieri* can show invasive tendencies and is considered invasive in Portugal and Spain. This is the first record for the Islas Canarias.

***Brassica fruticulosa* (Brassicaceae)**
Brassica fruticulosa is native to the EPPO region and recorded as established in the USA (California) and Australia where it can form dense stands in natural habitats. In Tenerife, it is recorded along roadsides where it is abundant at one site. This is the first record for the Canary Islands.

***Crassula alata* (Crassulaceae)**
Crassula alata is an annual species native to Africa and parts of the EPPO region and is reported as an invasive species in Australia and New Zealand. In Tenerife it was originally identified as *C. tillaea* in 1998. This is the first record (under the correct name) for the Islas Canarias.

***Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides* (Araliaceae)**
Hydrocotyle sibthorpioides is native to Africa, Asia and Oceania and is reported as an alien species in Belgium. It is reported in Tenerife from the gardens of La Orotava where it is abundant but confined. This is the first record for Tenerife.

***Hyparrhenia anthistirioides* (Poaceae)**
Hyparrhenia anthistirioides is an annual species of grass native to tropical East Africa. It has been reported as a contaminant of birdseed outside of its native range. In Tenerife, only a small number of individuals were found, indicating a recent introduction. This is the first record for Tenerife.

***Momordica charantia* (Cucurbitaceae)**
Momordica charantia is native to Africa, Asia and Oceania and is cultivated for its fruit. In some regions of the world, when it escapes cultivation it can become invasive. In Tenerife it has been found growing close to a banana plantation near a residential area. This is the first record for Tenerife.

***Nephrolepis biserrata* (Polypodiaceae)**
Nephrolepis biserrate is a pantropical fern which is utilised in horticulture. It is an invasive species in some islands in the Indian Ocean and the Pacific. This is the first record in the natural environment in the Islas Canarias.

***Rotheca myricoides* (Lamiaceae)**
Rotheca myricoides is native to Africa and utilised in horticulture. It is reported as invasive in a number of regions globally. In Tenerife, a small number of individuals (including seedlings) were recorded in the natural environment close to an individual growing in a garden. This is the first record for Tenerife.

Source: Verloove F, Reyes-Betancort JA (2026) Emerging elements in the alien flora of Tenerife (Canary Islands, Spain): new records and invasion risks. *Check List* **22** (1): 75–90. https://doi.org/10.15560/22.1.75

Additional key words: invasive alien plants **Computer codes**: BAOMO, BRSFR, CSBAL, HYDSI, HYRAT, MOMCH, NEHBI, RTCMY, ES

2026/054 Neobiota conference (Brussels, BE, 2026-09-07/11)

The 14th meeting of the international Neobiota conference on biological invasions will be held in Brussels (Belgium) from the 7th to the 11th of September 2026. The final conference of the LIFE RIPARIAS project is also included as part of the Neobiota conference. Thematic sessions will include:

- Invasions, health, and ecosystems
- Prioritization for effective management
- Integrative approaches for effective management
- Workflows in support of research and management
- Quantifying invasion impacts
- Drivers of invasion success
- Aquatic plant invasions: challenges and solutions
- A cross-sectoral approach to biosecurity
- Strengthening ecosystem resilience
- Innovation in invasion informatics
- Transforming invasion science with digital data

Early registration is open until 31st May and the registration ends on 10th July.

Conference website: https://inbo.idloom.events/neobiota

Source: EPPO Secretariat (2026-02).

Additional key words: invasive alien plants, conference **EPPO code**: BE