



EUROPEAN
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AUTHORITY



Plant Health Newsletter on HORIZON SCANNING

February 2023

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Introduction

Following a request from the European Commission¹, EFSA provides here the Horizon Scanning Newsletter summarising the monthly results of the horizon scanning activity for threats in the field of plant health, that were published on the web during the previous month (e.g. the newsletter of February 2023 covers the period 1-31 January 2023). The aim is to identify in a timely manner relevant information on plant pests that might be of concern to the EU and therefore may require consideration by risk assessors and risk managers.

The monitoring system is based on the automatic public health surveillance platform [MEDISYS \(Medical Information System\)](#), scanning more than 20,900 sources in 79 languages from 204 countries, covering all world's regions. At this moment, 2,496 plant pests (pests regulated in the EU, pests listed by EPPO and new plant pests) have been daily monitored in media, scientific literature and social media (EFSA, 2021² and data from September 2021).

The monitored plant pest species include

- 1 regulated pests listed in Annexes IIA and IIB of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072³ and later amendments, in other [EU plant health legal acts](#) or present in the [EPPO Alert](#), [A1](#) and [A2](#) lists.
- 2 Pests not regulated in the EU neither part of EPPO lists.
- 3 Newly identified taxa: as soon as included in a newsletter, they are also added to the list of monitored pests.

The final selection of articles and main issues for the newsletter is conducted by a dedicated EFSA working group meeting once a month⁴ with the support of EFSA staff and contractors. The EPPO Global Database⁵, CABI Crop Protection Compendium⁶ and previous EFSA outputs⁷ are fundamental tools supporting this decision process.

The newsletter is composed of three parts:

1. a summary of the content of the newsletter.
2. a presentation of the main issues of the month, identified and selected by a group of experts. They include the most relevant news, in particular: i) new threats represented by non-regulated pests, ii) first findings of pests regulated in the EU. In the first category are included pests screened by the PeMoScoring (EFSA, 2022⁸) with positive result, with a few details on their biology and reasons supporting the positive score.

¹ European Commission – Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, Request to provide a scientific and technical assistance on a horizon scanning exercise in view to crisis preparedness on plant health for the EU territory (M-2017-0012, EFSA-Q-2017-00037).

² EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Mannino M R, Larenaudie M, Linge J P, Candresse T, Jaques Miret J A, Jeger M J, Gachet E, Maiorano A, Muñoz Guajardo I, Stancanelli G, 2021. Horizon Scanning for Plant Health: report on 2017-2020 activities. EFSA supporting publication 2021:EN-2010. 113 pp. doi:10.2903/sp.efsa.2021.EN-2010

³ Commission implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019. Official Journal of the European Union L 319, latest consolidated version.

⁴ Minutes of the meetings are available here <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/plant-health/wg-plh-horizon-scanning.pdf>

⁵ EPPO, 2023. EPPO Global Database (available online). <https://gd.eppo.int>

⁶ CABI, 2023. Crop Protection Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. www.cabi.org/cpc

⁷ EFSA Journal <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/>

⁸ EFSA (European Food Safety Authority), Tayeh C, Mannino MR, Mosbach-Schulz O, Stancanelli G, Tramontini S, Gachet E, Candresse T, Jaques Miret JA and Jeger MJ, 2022. Scientific Report on the proposal of a ranking methodology for plant threats in the EU. EFSA Journal 2022;20 (1):7025, 59 pp. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2022.7025>

3. a list with active links to the selected articles: they are organised by regulation and EPPO lists where they appear, then by taxonomy. A coloured shape to the side of each article will help identifying the type of source:
 - Scientific publication
 - Official media (digital newspapers, magazines), grey sources (reports, government documents, working papers, etc)
 - ◆ Social media, blogs, email alerts (bulletins, news, discussion fora, etc)

This newsletter will serve the EC and Member States in addressing phytosanitary questions. Moreover, it will benefit professionals working in the field and the informed public.

1. Summary

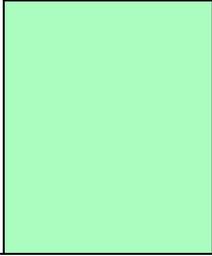
Table legend		Host	Host range	Damage	EU distribution
 Negative PeMo Scoring  Positive PeMo Scoring	 Forest plants  Fruit plants  Vegetables  Ornamental and flower plants  Cereals  Oil and fiber plants  Other plants	 Monophagous / One host plant  Oligophagous / Restricted range of host plants  Polyphagous / Wide range of host plants	 Qualitative losses  Quantitative losses  Damage leading to plant death  Vector	 Present in the EU  Absent from the EU	

Pest	Hosts	Host range	Damage	EU distribution	Regulatory status	Topic
<u>African eggplant yellowing virus</u>	 Tomato, eggplant	 Solanaceae	 Yellowing, necrotic spots	 Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding
<u>Cryptosporiosis tarraconensis</u> 	 Hazelnut	 <i>Corylus avellana</i>	 Dry brown spots on leaves of newly emerging shoots	 ES, IT	Not listed	First finding
<u>Eggplant mottled crinkle virus</u>	 Mainly eggplant, also Jerusalem cherry and geranium		 Leaf mottling and yellowing, plant stunting and apical necrosis. Fruit malformation and necrosis	 GR, IT	Not listed	New finding
<u>Fusarium oxysporu</u>					Not listed	First finding

<u><i>m f. sp. cubense</i></u> Tropical race 4	Banana and manila hemp	<i>Musa</i> and <i>Heliconia</i> sp	Stunting, discoloration, yellowing, necrotic areas, reduced fruit size	Absent from the EU		
<u><i>Hedge mustard mosaic virus</i></u>	 Hedge mustard, turnip, wild radish	 Brassicaceae	 Leaf mosaic, stunting, chlorosis	✓ FR	Not listed	New pest
<u><i>Lasiodiplodia regiae</i></u> sp. nov	 Cherry, grapevine, kiwifruit, jujube, peach and walnut		 Stem canker, branch dieback and gummosis	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u><i>Megalurot hrips usitatus</i></u>	 Carrot, potato, soybean, tomato...		 Wilting of the leaves and inflorescence	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding
<u><i>Melanaspis corticosa</i></u> 	 Many tree species, among which <i>Juglans</i> , <i>Olea</i> , <i>Platanus</i> , <i>Populus</i> , <i>Prunus</i> , <i>Pyrus</i> , <i>Robinia</i>		 Branch dieback, leaf browning and abscission	✓ PT	Not listed	First finding
<u><i>Neofusicoccum cryptoaus trale</i></u> 	 <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp., <i>Juglans regia</i> , <i>Mangifera indica</i> , <i>Olea europaea</i> , <i>Vitis vinifera</i>		 Stem canker, branch dieback and vascular discoloration	✓ IT	Not listed	New host plant
<u><i>Neopestalotiopsis clavispora</i></u>	 Strawberry, blueberry, avocado, mango, etc		 Fruit, root and crown rot	✓ ES, IT	Not listed	New host plant
				✓	Not listed	New finding

<u>Pantoea ananatis</u>	Mainly maize, rice, onion, orange, peach, Eucalyptus		Fruit lesions, stem and leaves necrosis and dieback, seedling and plant blight	ES, IT, PL		
<u>Pantoea (related to Pantoea ananatis)</u>	 Maize	 <i>Zea mays</i>	 Light green streaked lesions, necrosis, leaf blight	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u>Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus</u> 	 Cucurbitaceae		 Leaf yellowing	✓ GR, IT	Not listed	First finding
<u>Peronosclerospora neglecta sp. nov</u>	 Maize	 <i>Zea mays</i>	  Chlorotic leaf lesions and distortion, stunted plants, can lead to complete crop loss	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<u>Phytophthora parvispora</u>	   Arbutus, rocktrumpet, stone pine...		  Collar and stem rot, dieback	✓ DE, IT, PT	Not listed	New host plant
<u>Pratylenchus brachyurus</u> 	        Mainly citrus, strawberry, soyabean, rice, avocado, peach, potato, maize...		 Root lesions, stunted growth, reduced plant vigor, leaves chlorosis, defoliation, yield decline	✓ BG, IT	Not listed	First finding
<u>Toumeyella parvicornis</u> 	 Pine trees	 <i>Pinus</i> sp.	   Reduced host vigour and seed production, honeydew production, dieback and tree mortality	✓ Under official control in FR and IT	EPPO Alert list	Surveillance
<u>Candidatus</u> 			  	✗	Priority pest	First finding New vector

<u>liberibacter asiaticus</u>	Citrus species	Rutaceae	Reduced size and green colour of the fruits, premature fruit drop, dieback and dwarfing of the plant	Absent from the EU		
<u>Phyllosticta citricarpa</u>	 Citrus species	 Rutaceae	  Spot on fruit, lesions	✗ Absent from the EU	Priority pest	First finding
<u>Spodoptera frugiperda</u>	 Major hosts maize, sugarcane, millet, rice, cotton	 Rutaceae	 Larval feeding on foliage.	✗ Absent. Present in Canary Islands (ES)	Priority pest	First finding New finding New finding Management
<u>Xylella fastidiosa</u>	 Mainly almond, citrus, grapevine, olive	 Rutaceae	  Dieback/reduced growth/plant death. Asymptomatic in some species or cvs.	✓ Under official control in ES, FR, IT and PT	Priority pest	Absence New finding New finding on <i>Citrus</i>
<u>Candidatus Phytoplasma aurantifolia</u>	 Lime	 Rutaceae	  Witches' broom disease, dieback	✗ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
<u>Diaphorina citri</u>	 Fruit and ornamental species	 Rutaceae	 Vector of Citrus greening disease	✗ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	First finding
<u>Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum</u>	 Bell pepper, figs, olive, potato, tomato, also ornamentals	 Rutaceae	 Bacterial wilting	✓ DE, HU, PL	Quarantine pest	First finding
<u>Spodoptera litura</u>	 Major hosts castor bean, cotton, maize, soyabean, tobacco	 Rutaceae	 Extensive feeding by larvae	✗ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
<u>Tomato leaf curl</u>	 Tomato leaf curl	 Rutaceae	 Tomato leaf curl	✓	Quarantine pest	New finding New finding

<p><u>New Delhi virus</u></p>	<p>Mainly cucurbits, pepper, tomato</p>	<p>Mainly Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae</p>	<p>Chlorotic mottling, curling and crinkling of leaves, vein clearing or thickening, reduced size of leaves and internodes, plant stunting</p>	<p>Under official control in ES, IT, GR, PT</p>		
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2. Main issues of February 2023

Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus

Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (*Clas*), one of the causal agents of Huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening disease, is a plant pathogenic bacterium regulated as a priority pest and listed in Annex II A of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This newsletter includes two articles about this pathogen.

The first article reports the first finding of the pest in Uruguay. This bacterium, which has been previously reported in Argentina and Paraguay, was found in citrus plantations in Bella Unión.

The second article reports a new vector for this bacterium, *Trioza erytrae*. This insect has been previously reported as a vector for *Candidatus Liberibacter africanus*, another HLB bacterium. The addition of a new vector leads to a reevaluation of the the risk of *Clas* spread in Europe.

All the articles on *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Melanaspis corticosa

Positive PeMoScoring

Melanaspis corticosa is a scale insect, currently not listed in any EU legal acts or EPPO lists. This newsletter includes one article about this pest.

The scientific article reports the first finding of the pest in Europe. The insect was known to be distributed in a few African countries, but, between December 2016 and March 2022, its presence was detected in 15 different locations of the Algarve region (southern Portugal). Although it is a polyphagous species, in Portugal *M. corticosa* was observed feeding on olive trees only. The insect was included in the PeMoScoring screening and scored positive.

All the articles on *Melanaspis corticosa* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus

Positive PeMoScoring

Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus is a *Polerovirus* damaging Cucurbitaceae, not listed in any EU legal acts or EPPO lists. The newsletter reports one scientific article about the virus.

The article describes the detection of two viruses on courgette in Italy: *Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus (PABYV)* and *Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus (ToLCNDV)* which is listed in Annex II B of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This is the first report of *PABYV* and a new occurrence of *ToLCNDV* in the country. The virus was included in the PeMoScoring screening and scored positive.

All the articles on *Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Spodoptera frugiperda

Spodoptera frugiperda is an insect pest regulated as a priority pest and listed in Annex II A of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This newsletter includes four articles about this highly polyphagous insect.

The first article reports the first finding of the pest in Türkiye. After being found in Egypt in 2019, Israel in 2020 and Syria in 2021, *S. frugiperda* was found feeding on maize in Adana Province (southern Türkiye) in September 2022.

The two remaining articles are reporting the expansion of the distribution of the pest in New Zealand, both in the North and South Island. The final article reports about the possible management options of this polyphagous pest.

All the articles on *Spodoptera frugiperda* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

Xylella fastidiosa

Xylella fastidiosa is a plant pathogenic bacterium regulated as a priority pest and listed in Annex II B of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072, subject of EU emergency measures (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1201). This newsletter includes three articles concerning this bacterium.

Two articles report new findings of *X. fastidiosa* in Portugal and the first presence of the bacterium on European citrus plants. This is seen as a rare finding as the infection had occurred with the *fastidiosa* subspecies.

The third article reports the absence of the bacterium in Jordan. The Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture performed a 5-year survey and didn't detect any infections.

All the articles on *Xylella fastidiosa* are available on the webpage of [MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health](#).

3. Selected articles

3.1. New EU threats

3.1.1 Non-regulated pests in the EU

Bacteria

Pantoea sp. (related to *Pantoea ananatis*)

Authority: -

Gammaproteobacteria, Enterobacterales, Erwiniaceae

- New pest

[Late-Season Decline – A New Bacterial Disease of Corn Identified in the Texas Panhandle](#)

Plant Health Progress 09.Jan.2023

The genus *Pantoea* has historically been associated with two diseases of corn, Stewart's wilt caused by *P. stewartii*, and necrotic or white leaf spots or streaks and stalk rot caused by *P. ananatis*. In 2020 and 2021, a sudden and unusual decline of stands was observed in fields in two counties in the Texas High Plains region. ([more](#))

Pantoea ananatis

Authority: (Serrano) Mergaert, Verdonck & Kersters

Gammaproteobacteria, Enterobacterales, Erwiniaceae

- New finding (US)

[First report of rice bacterial leaf blight disease caused by *Pantoea ananatis* in the United States](#)

Plant Disease 06.Jan.2023

In August 2021, bacterial leaf blight-like symptoms were observed on 14 out of 570 rice genotypes (*Oryza sativa*) in research field plots of global rice germplasm grown in Arkansas (eXtra Figure S1. A & B). The disease was characterized by spreading lesions on leaves, panicle sterility and reduced yield in highly susceptible, mature rice germplasm. No spread of disease to nearby plants was observed. ([more](#))

Fungi and Oomycetes

Cryptosporiopsis tarraconensis

Authority: Gené & Guarro

Leotimycetes, Helotiales, Dermateaceae

 Negative PeMoScoring

- First finding (TR)

[First detection of *Cryptosporiopsis tarraconensis* on hazelnut in Türkiye and control potency of some antifungal agents](#)

Australasian Plant Pathology 26.Jan.2023

Hazelnut (*Corylus avellana* L.) is one of the most important agricultural products of Türkiye with over 77% of total global production occurring here. Some diseases such as powdery mildew, nectria canker and bacterial blight negatively affect hazelnut production. ([more](#))

Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. *ubense* Tropical race 4

Authority: N. Maryani, L. Lombard, G.H.J. Kema & P.W. Crous

Sordariomycetes, Hypocreales, Nectriaceae

- First finding (VE)

[Phytosanitary Emergency for presence of Foc R4T](#)

IPCC 25.Jan.2023

Phytosanitary Emergency in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in the presence of the fungus *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense* Tropical Race 4 (Foc R4T)

[Venezuela confirma presencia del Fusarium Raza 4 en plantaciones de tres estados](#)

El Universo 26.Jan.2023

El Fusarium Raza 4 vuelve a prender las alertas en la región después que la plaga fuera confirmada en Venezuela, el tercer país en presentar la plaga en el continente. ([more](#))

The Fusarium Race 4 turns on the alerts in the region again after the pathogen was confirmed in Venezuela, the third country to present the pathogen in the continent.

Lasiodiplodia regiae sp. nov

Authority: Y. F. Wang & M. Zhang

Dothideomycetes, Botryosphaerales, Botryosphaeriaceae

- New pest

[Lasiodiplodia regiae](#) sp. nov.: a new species causing canker and dieback of fruit trees in China

Phytopathology 19.Jan.2023

Canker and dieback are serious fungal diseases of woody plants, which can cause huge economic losses to orchards. The purpose of this study was to classify and assess pathogenicity of fungal species associated with canker and dieback on fruit trees growing

in Henan Province, China. In total, 150 isolates of Botryosphaeriaceae were obtained from six different fruit trees exhibiting typical symptoms of stem canker, branch dieback, and gummosis. ([more](#))

Neofusicoccum cryptoaustrale

Authority: Pavlic, Maleme, Slippers & M.J. Wingf
Dothideomycetes, Botryosphaeriales, Botryosphaeriaceae

 Negative PeMoScoring

- New host plant

[First report of *Neofusicoccum cryptoaustrale* associated with branch dieback and stem canker on *Juglans regia* in Turkey](#)

Journal of Plant Pathology 11.Jan.2023

English walnut (*Juglans regia* L.) is an important fruit tree in Turkey. In June 2021, symptoms of stem canker, branches dieback and vascular discoloration were observed on 4% of 250 trees of the walnut cultivar Fernor surveyed in an orchard (40°39'36.0"N, 29°17'34.5"E) of Yalova province, Turkey. ([more](#))

Neopestalotiopsis clavispora

Authority: (G.F. Atkinson) Maharachchikumbura, K.D. Hyde & Crous
Sordariomycetes, Amphisphaeriales, Sprocadaceae

- New host plant

[Species of the genera *Neopestalotiopsis* and *Alternaria* as dominant pathogen species attacking mastic trees \(*Pistacia lentiscus* var. *Chia*\)](#)

Microbiology Research 21.Jan.2023

Between 2018 and 2021, several mastic trees (*Pistacia lentiscus* var. *Chia*) sampled in the field and the nursery of the Chios Mastiha Growers Association (CMGA) were analyzed to determine the cause of dominant diseases. Symptoms included defoliation, leaf, and twig blight, wilting and/or apoplexy of trees and apoplexy of young hardwood cuttings. ([more](#))

Peronosclerospora neglecta sp. nov

Authority: Muis, Ryley, Suharjo, Y.P. Tan, Thines and R.G. Shivas
Oomycetes, Peronosporales, Peronosporaceae

- New pest

[Peronosclerospora neglecta sp. nov. — a widespread and overlooked threat to corn \(maize\) production in the tropics](#)

Mycological Progress 19.Jan.2023

Downy mildew is a serious threat to corn (maize) production in the tropics and subtropics. Corn is native to Central America, and was introduced into South-East Asia by the Spanish

colonisers in the 1700s. Corn is evolutionarily naïve to downy mildews of the genus *Peronosclerospora*. ([more](#))

Phytophthora parvispora

Authority: Scanu & Denman

Oomycetes, Peronosporales, Peronosporaceae

- New host plant

[Pathogenicity and fungicide sensitivity of *Phytophthora parvispora*, a new pathogen causing gummosis and root rot disease on citrus trees](#)

Microbial Pathogenesis 10.Jan.2023

In 2021, pomelo (*Citrus grandis*) trees grown in Tuyen Quang and Phu Tho in northern Vietnam suffered from leaf yellowing, gummosis on stems, brown rot on fruit, and black rot on roots. Based on morphological and sequence analysis of the ITS and *cox1* gene regions, the pathogen causing gummosis and root rot of citrus trees was identified as *Phytophthora parvispora*. ([more](#))

Insects and mites

Megalurothrips usitatus

Authority: (Bagnall)

Insecta, Thysanoptera, Thripidae

- First finding (MX)

[New Report of the Exotic Species *Megalurothrips usitatus* \(Thysanoptera: Thripidae\) Infesting Three Commercial Legumes in Nayarit, Mexico](#)

Florida Entomologist 06.Jan.2023

The bean flower thrips, *Megalurothrips usitatus* (Bagnall) (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) is native from Asia and is a well-known pest of legumes such as common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.), cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata* [L.] Walp.), pea (*Pisum sativum* L.), and lima bean (*Phaseolus limensis* Macf.) (all Fabaceae). This thrips species has been recorded recently in the Americas (USA and Cuba). Before this study there were no records of *M. usitatus* in Mexico; this work is the first report of *M. usitatus* in Mexico. ([more](#))

Melanaspis corticosa

Authority: (Brain)

Insecta, Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Diaspididae

 Positive PeMoScoring

- First finding (PT)

[Melanaspis corticosa: a new insect pest of olive trees in Europe](#)

Phytoparasitica 20.Jan.2023

The presence of the South African Obscure Scale, *Melanaspis corticosa* (Brain) (Hemiptera, Diaspididae), was detected infesting olive trees, in Portugal. The identity of the scale insect was confirmed based on both morphological and molecular studies. Until now, this species was only known in a few African countries, including Guinea, Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This is the first record of this species in Europe and in the Palearctic region. ([more](#))

Nematodes*Pratylenchus brachyurus*

Authority: (Godfrey) Filipjev & Schuurmans-Stekhoven

Chromadorea, Rhabditida, Pratylenchidae

 Negative PeMoScoring

- First finding (TW)

[First report of a root lesion nematode \(*Pratylenchus brachyurus*\) on cassava in Taiwan](#)

Plant Disease 16.Jan.2023

The root lesion nematode, *Pratylenchus* spp., has a wide host range affecting many economically important crops (Castillo and Vovlas 2007). Cassava (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz) is an important food crop in several countries, commonly used for the material of bioethanol, animal feed, and starch extraction (Howeler 2014). ([more](#))

Viruses and viroids and phytoplasmas*African eggplant yellowing virus*

Viruses, Solemoviridae, Polerovirus

- First finding (CI)

[First Report of African Eggplant Yellowing Virus on Tomato Exhibiting Necrotic Yellowing Symptoms in Northern Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Plant Disease 30.Jan.2023

In February 2019, virus-like symptoms of necrotic yellowing were observed on tomato plants in a field plot in the locality of Odiénné in the Denguélé region of the north of Côte d'Ivoire (8°14.157 N; 6°26.772 W), together with high disease incidence and dense whitefly populations. ([more](#))

Eggplant mottled crinkle virus

Viruses, Tolivirales, Tombusvirus

■ New finding (GR)

[Επανεμφάνιση ιού απειλεί τις καλλιέργειες μελιτζάνας](#)

Reappearance of a virus threatens eggplant crops

Creta Live News 26.Jan.2023

Την επανεμφάνισή του έκανε ο ιός της ποικιλοχλώρωσης με ρυτίδωση της μελιτζάνας (*Eggplant mottled crinkle virus*, EMCV, γένος Tombusvirus) σε δείγματα φυτικών ιστών από θερμοκηπιακές καλλιέργειες στο Τυμπάκι. [\(more\)](#)

Eggplant mottled crinkle virus (EMCV, genus Tombusvirus) was found again in plant tissue samples from greenhouse crops in Tympaki.

Hedge mustard mosaic virus

Viruses, Potyviridae, Potyvirus

● New pest

[A new potyvirus from hedge mustard \(*Sisymbrium officinale* \(L.\) Scop.\) sheds light on the evolutionary history of turnip mosaic virus](#)

Archives of Virology 28.Dec.2022

A novel potyvirus was identified in symptomatic hedge mustard (*Sisymbrium officinale* (L.) Scop.) and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum* L.) in France. The nearly complete genome sequence of hedge mustard mosaic virus (HMMV) was determined, demonstrating that it belongs to a sister species to turnip mosaic virus (TuMV). [\(more\)](#)

Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus

Viruses, Solemoviridae, Polerovirus

⚠ Positive PeMoScoring

● First finding (IT)

[First report of Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus on courgette in Italy](#)

New Disease Reports 05.Jan.2023

During monitoring for cucurbit viruses in greenhouses in the municipalities of Torre del Greco (Napoli province, Campania) and Aversana (Salerno province, Campania) in September 2019 and October 2022, respectively, samples of commercial hybrids of courgette (*Cucurbita pepo*) showing symptoms of leaf yellowing and mosaics (Figure 1) were collected and stored as dried material. [\(more\)](#)

3.1.1 EPPO Lists

*Toumeyella parvicornis*⁹

Authority: (Cockerell)

Insecta, Hemiptera, Coccidae

- Surveillance

[Using Species Distribution Models \(SDMs\) to Estimate the Suitability of European Mediterranean Non-Native Area for the Establishment of *Toumeyella Parvicornis* \(Hemiptera: Coccidae\)](#)

Insects 03.Jan.2023

Predicting species distribution is a fundamental step for setting up opportune control actions. The suitability of the environment for the establishment of the species is even more important in case of invasive insects, such as *Toumeyella parvicornis* (Hemiptera, Coccidae). This species is a soft scale insect native to North America recently introduced in Italy and in France, where it established and spread, causing harmful infestations on stone pine (*Pinus pinea* L.) plants. ([more](#))

⁹ EPPO Alert List: https://www.eppo.int/ACTIVITIES/plant_quarantine/alert_list

3.2. Regulated pests

3.2.1 Priority pests¹⁰

Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus

Authority: Jagoueix, Bové & Garnier

Alphaproteobacteria, Rhizobiales, Phyllobacteriaceae

■ First finding (UY)

[Detectaron una bacteria que ataca cítricos en Bella Unión](#)

A bacterium attacking citrus was detected in Bella Union

Telenoche 17.Jan.2023

El ministro de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca, Fernando Mattos, comunicó que se declaró emergencia sanitaria por la aparición de la bacteria HLB, que fue detectada en plantas cítricas de Bella Unión. ([more](#))

Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries Minister Fernando Mattos said a health emergency was declared due to the appearance of the HLB bacterium, which was detected in citrus plants in Bella Union.

● New vector

[The African citrus psyllid *Trioza erythrae*: An efficient vector of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*](#)

Front Plant Sci 22.Dec.2022

Huanglongbing (HLB) is the most serious disease of citrus in the world, associated with three non-cultivable phloem-restricted bacteria *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas), *Ca L. africanus* (CLaf) and *Ca L. americanus* (CLam). CLas is transmitted by the Asian citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri*, and has spread to several countries. The African psyllid *Trioza erythrae*, the vector of CLaf occurs in Africa and neighbouring islands. Only two major citrus-growing regions - Australia/New Zealand and the Mediterranean Basin - are still HLB-free in the world. However, *T. erythrae* has recently been introduced into continental Europe (Portugal and Spain) and has become a potential threat to citrus production. The transmission of CLas by *T. erythrae* had been postulated but never tested. To evaluate the risk of *T. erythrae* transmitting CLas, comparative transmissions of CLas by *T. erythrae* and *D. citri* were assessed. ([more](#))

Phyllosticta citricarpa

Authority: (McAlpine) Aa

Dothideomycetes, Botryosphaeriales, Phyllostictaceae

● First finding (BJ)

[First report of citrus black spot disease caused by *Phyllosticta citricarpa* in Benin](#)

New Disease Report 13.Jan.2023

In Benin, citrus production represents an important activity in the national economy and source of income for farmers. For a decade,0 the majority of orange orchards in Benin

¹⁰ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/1702 of 1 August 2019 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council by establishing the list of priority pests. OJ L 260, 11.10.2019, p. 8–10

have been affected by a disease that is expressed by the appearance of spots on the fruits (Lokossou et al., 2009). A preliminary study conducted on farmers' perception on the presence of this disease revealed positive answers from all 417 interviewed orchardists. ([more](#))

Spodoptera frugiperda

Authority: (Smith)

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

● First finding (TR)

[First record of the fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* \(J.E. Smith, 1797\) \(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae\) in Türkiye](#)

Çukurova Journal of Agricultural and Food Sciences Oct.2022

The fall armyworm, *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. Smith, 1797) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), is a key pest of the many economically important crops, especially maize throughout the world. *Spodoptera frugiperda* is indigenous in Americas, but now it has rapidly spread over more than 50 countries in Africa and Asia continents. In the EPPO region, the first occurrence of *S. frugiperda* was in Egypt in 2019, while then in Southern Israel in 2020, most recently in Syria. During the maize field surveys performed randomly, *S. frugiperda* larvae were detected for the first time in Adana Province (Türkiye). ([more](#))

■ New finding (NZ)

[Fall armyworm: Spike in detections of pest in North Island crops](#)

RNZ 10.Jan.2023

The number of farms confirmed as having an invasive pest that has wreaked havoc on crops overseas has spiked in the past fortnight. First discovered in New Zealand in March last year, the fall armyworm can chew through more than 350 plant species. ([more](#))

■ New finding (NZ)

[Vicious agriculture pest found in the South Island for first time](#)

Stuff 19.Jan.2023

A tropical agriculture pest that destroys maize crops and sweetcorn has been found in the South Island for the first time, says a farming group. The fall armyworm had caused US farmers suffered crop losses of US\$60 million (NZ\$93m) between 1975 and 1983, with maize growers in South Africa comparing it to in 2017. ([more](#))

● Management

[Spodoptera frugiperda: Ecology, Evolution, and Management Options of an Invasive Species](#)

Annual Review of Entomology Jan.2023

The number of farms confirmed as having an invasive pest that has wreaked havoc on crops overseas has spiked in the past fortnight. First discovered in New Zealand in March last year, the fall armyworm can chew through more than 350 plant species. ([more](#))

Xylella fastidiosa

Authority: Wells, Raju, Hung, Weisburg, Parl & Beemer
Gammaproteobacteria, Lysobacterales, Lysobacteraceae

■ New finding (PT)

[DGAV estabelece zona demarcada para *Xylella fastidiosa* em Bougado](#)

DGAV establishes demarcated zone for *Xylella fastidiosa* in Bougado

FLF Revista 20.Jan.2023

A Direcção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária (DGAV) determinou o estabelecimento de uma nova zona demarcada para a bactéria de quarentena *Xylella fastidiosa* em Bougado, no concelho de Trofa. Segundo o Despacho N.º 5/G/2022, publicado a 17 de Janeiro, as acções de prospecção realizadas pelos serviços oficiais conduziram à obtenção de um resultado positivo para a *Xylella fastidiosa* «em zona considerada isenta desta bactéria».

[\(more\)](#)

The Directorate General for Food and Veterinary Medicine (DGAV) determined the establishment of a new demarcated area for the quarantine bacterium Xylella fastidiosa in Bougado, in the municipality of Trofa (NW Portugal, close to Porto). According to Dispatch No. 5/G/2022, published on 17 January, the prospecting actions carried out by the official services led to a positive result for Xylella fastidiosa "in an area considered free of this bacterium".

■ New finding (PT) on Citrus

[Xylella fastidiosa on citrus in Portugal "of high relevance for Europe"](#)

Bexyl Project 17.Jan.2023

In December, the Government of Portugal confirmed the presence of *Xylella fastidiosa* in citrus for the first time in Europe. Laboratory analyses identified the bacterium in samples of lemon, grapefruit, mandarin, and sweet orange trees (*Citrus limon*, *C. paradisi*, *C. reticulata*, *C. sinensis*). The infection occurs with a subspecies – *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* – causing Pierce's disease in grapevines and Leaf Scorch in almond trees in America, but very rarely found on citrus. Instead, it's the *pauca* subspecies to spark off Citrus Variegated Chlorosis (CVC) disease, which generated significant economic losses for the citrus sector in Brazil in the 1990s. [\(more\)](#)

● Absence (JO)

[Xylella fastidiosa not detected on tree crops after five years of survey](#)

Plant Health Progress 18.Jan.2023

With the *X. fastidiosa* outbreak in Europe affecting olive and other major crops, the Jordanian Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) signaled a red warning light to prevent its entry into Jordan. An intensive survey was performed during 2016-2021 to assess its spread in Jordan across a range of agricultural crops in parallel to the previously published survey on olives. [\(more\)](#)

3.2.2 Quarantine pests^{11,12}

Annex II Part A

Bacteria

Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum

Authority: Safni, Cleenwerck, de Vos, Fegan, Sly & Kappler
Betaproteobacteria, Burkholderiales, Burkholderiaceae

- First finding (MX)

[First report of *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum* causing wilt disease in tomato \(*Solanum lycopersicum* L.\) plants from Mexico](#)

Plant Disease 23.Jan.2023

Mexico produces more than four million tons of tomato fruits and ranks tenth worldwide. In February 2022, tomato plants in a greenhouse in Culiacan, Sinaloa State, were affected by wilt diseases with an incidence of 20% and irreversible wilt and death of the infected plants (severity up 70%). ([more](#))

Insects and mites

Diaphorina citri

Authority: (Del Guercio)
Insecta, Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Liviidae

- First finding (BJ)

[Report on the first detection of Asian citrus psyllid *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama \(Hemiptera: Liviidae\) in the Republic of Benin, West Africa](#)

Scientific Reports 16.Jan.2023

The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri*, was detected for the first time in the Republic of Benin, West Africa. The ACP is a known vector of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs), the putative causal agent of the devastating Huanglongbing (HLB; citrus greening disease) ([more](#))

Spodoptera litura

Authority: (Fabricius)

¹¹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 of 28 November 2019 establishing uniform conditions for the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and the Council, as regards protective measures against pests of plants, and repealing Commission Regulation (EC) No 690/2008 and amending Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/2019. OJ L 319, consolidated version 16.12.2021, p. 1–258

¹² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2285 of 14 December 2021 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072 as regards the listing of pests, prohibitions and requirements for the introduction into, and movement within, the Union of plants, plant products and other objects, and repealing Decisions 98/109/EC and 2002/757/EC and Implementing Regulations (EU) 2020/885 and (EU) 2020/1292. OJ L 458, 22.12.2021, p. 173–283.

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

■ New host plant

[Centre sends team to inspect wheat crop affected by tobacco caterpillars in Madhya Pradesh](#)

Krishak Jagat 06.Jan.2023

A severe infestation of Tobacco Caterpillar was reported last week in the Depalpur area of Madhya Pradesh. This created panic among the wheat farmers and the Agriculture Ministry in New Delhi. The wheat crop is of high economic importance as the government is planning the export of wheat in the current season and cannot afford to increase MRL (Minimum Residue Level) due to the excessive use of agrochemicals. ([more](#))

Viruses and viroids and phytoplasmas

Candidatus Phytoplasma aurantifolia

Authority: Zreik, Bové & Garnier

Mollicutes, Acholeplasmatales, Acholeplasmataceae

● New host plant

[First report of a 'Candidatus Phytoplasma aurantifolia' related strain \(16SrII-C\) associated with Convolvulus virgatus witches'-broom disease in Iran](#)

New Disease Reports 17.Jan.2023

Convolvulus virgatus (Convolvulaceae) is a perennial shrub which grows mainly in desert and shrubland biomes in Iran, the Arabian Peninsula and Pakistan (Wood et al., 2015). In a 2020 survey for phytoplasma diseases, witches'-broom disease of *C. virgatus* (WBDCV) was observed in the Roodan area (Hormozgan province, Iran). ([more](#))

Annex II Part B

Viruses and viroids and phytoplasmas

Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus

Viruses, Geminiviridae, Begomovirus

■ New finding (FR)

[Nieuwe vondsten New Delhi virus in Frankrijk](#)

New discoveries of New Delhi virus in France

Groenten Nieuws 27.Jan.2023

In Frankrijk zijn nieuwe vondsten gedaan van het *Tomato Leaf Curl New Delhi Virus* (ToLCNDV). Het begomovirus werd in 2020 voor het eerst gevonden, maar is uitgegroeid. Recent zijn nieuwe vondsten gemeld die zijn gedaan in september en oktober 2022 in het departement Bouches-du-Rhône, in het zuidoosten van Frankrijk. ([more](#))

New discoveries of the Tomato Leaf Curl New Delhi Virus (ToLCNDV) have been made in France. The begomovirus was first found in 2020, but has since spread. New finds have recently been reported made in September and October 2022 in the Bouches-du-Rhône department in southeastern France.

● New finding (IT)

[First report of Pepo aphid-borne yellows virus on courgette in Italy](#)

New Disease Reports 05.Jan.2023

During monitoring for cucurbit viruses in greenhouses in the municipalities of Torre del Greco (Napoli province, Campania) and Aversana (Salerno province, Campania) in September 2019 and October 2022, respectively, samples of commercial hybrids of courgette (*Cucurbita pepo*) showing symptoms of leaf yellowing and mosaics (Figure 1) were collected and stored as dried material. ([more](#))

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Unit I.3 – European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Ispra, Italy

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Disclaimer

The selection of articles reflects the media and scientific coverage during the one-month time period in question. It does not reflect EFSA opinion on the articles' content, the presence of plant pests in a particular country and/or concerning a particular plant or plant product and/or endorsement of proposed control practices.

Note to the reader

This newsletter combines and substitutes the two pre-existent monthly publications: "Plant Health Newsletter: Media Monitoring" (58 published items) and "Plant Health Newsletter: Scientific Literature Monitoring" (37 published items), all accessible from the [EFSA Virtual Issue "Horizon Scanning for Plant Health"](#)

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