EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Plant Health Newsletter on HORIZON SCANNING

September 2024

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
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Science, safe food, sustainability

Introduction

Following a request from the European Commission[1], 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 2024 covers the period 1-31 January 2024). 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. This newsletter will first of all serve the EC and Member States in addressing phytosanitary questions and, for this reason, attention is given in avoiding duplicating information already provided to National Plant Protection Organisations (NPPOs) by official channels, such as the EPPO Bulletin[2]. Moreover, it will benefit professionals working in the field and the informed public, to which is also dedicated the interactive dashboard in the EFSA website[3].

The monitoring system is based on the automatic public health surveillance platform MEDISYS (Medical Information System), scanning more than 25,000 sources in 79 languages from 204 countries, covering all world's regions. At this moment, 2,762 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, 2021[4] 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) 2019/2072[5] 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.

A dedicated EFSA working group meets once a month[6] with the support of EFSA staff and contractors, in order to compose and validate the content of the newsletter: the articles to be included, the main issues, the PeMo scoring and the brief text summarizing the content of each item. The EPPO Global Database[7], CABI Crop Protection Compendium[8] and previous EFSA outputs[9] are fundamental tools supporting this decision process.

[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] EPPO Bulletin accessible from https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/13652338

[3] The Horizon Scanning Dashboard is accessible from https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/powerbi/plant-health-horizon-scanning-dashboard

[4] 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

[5] 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.

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

[7] EPPO, 2023. EPPO Global Database (available online). https://gd.eppo.int

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

[9] EFSA Journal https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/

The newsletter is composed of three parts:

1. a summary of the content of the newsletter in the form of a table, with icons and bookmarks in order to facilitate the navigation of the newsletter.
2. a presentation of the main issues of the month, 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 PeMo scoring (EFSA, 2022[10]) with positive result, with a few details on their biology and reasons supporting the positive score.
3. a list with active links to the selected articles: they are organised by regulation and EPPO lists where they appear, then by taxonomy. Each item is accompanied by a brief text provided by the EFSA working group experts, summarising the main content of the article. 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.)

[10] 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

1. Summary

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

Pest	Host range	Main hosts	Damage and symptoms	EU distribution	Regulatory status	Topic
Belonolaimus longicaudatus	*Brassica* spp., sweet orange (*Citrus sinensis*), melon (*Cucumis melo*), carrot (*Daucus carota*), strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*), soybean (*Glycine max*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), maize *(Zea mays*).		Root damage, leading to stunted growth, wilting, leaf yellowing, and potentially plant death.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New finding (US)
Diaporthe humulicola	Hop (*Humulus lupulus*).		Brownish-gray lesions, cankers, leaf spots, dieback, rot, wilt, and blights.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New finding (CA)
Fusarium redolens	Onion (*Allium cepa*), asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*), chickpea (*Cicer arietinum*), soybean (*Glycine max*), lentil (*Lens culinaris*), pea (*Pisum sativum*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*).		Fusarium wilt.	✔ CZ, FI, NL, SE	Not listed	New host plant
Ilarvirus TSV	Very large host range including both monocots and dicots, among which onion (*Allium cepa*), chickpea (*Cicer aretinum*), pumkin (*Cucurbita pepo*), cotton (Gossypium spp.), sunflower (*Helianthus annus*), alflafa (*Medicago sativa*), mulberry (*Morus alba*), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), potato (*Solanum tuberosum*), faba bean (*Vicia faba*), wild.		Necrotic rings and patterns on leaves. Necrotic, folded and deformed young leaves. Veins brown discoloration.	✔ DK, FR, IT, NL, SI	Not listed	New host plant

Lasiodiplodia brasiliensis ⚠	  Sugar apple (*Annona squamosa*), apple (*Malus domestica*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), banana (*Musa* sp.).	 Canker and dieback.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding (CI)
Lasiodiplodia sp. inquirenda	  *Aloe vera.*	 Leaf spot and tip necrosis.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	Taxonomy
Mastrevirus storeyi	  Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*), wheat (*Triticum* spp.), maize (*Zea mays*).	 Pale spots on leaves develop into streaks, causing stunting, abnormal growth, and potential plant death.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding (PH)
Monomorium destructor	  Sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*).	 Generalist ant with a broad diet of living and dead insects, nectar and seeds. Household pest.	✔ ES, CY	Not listed	New host plant
Neopestalotiopsis rosae	  Tangerine (*Citrus reticulata*), strawberry (*Fragaria x ananassa*), pomegranate (*Punica granatum*), blueberry (*Vaccinium* sp.).	 Necrosis and dieback.	✔ ES, PT	Not listed	First finding (IN)
Olive leaf mottling virus	  Olive (*Olea europaea*).	 Dark green spots on yellowing leaves, leading to extensive defoliation but no fruit damage.	✔ ES	Not listed	New pest

Paecilomyces formosus 	  Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*).	 Dieback, mortality, dieback or dead foliage, wilting and yellowing of leaves, canker, branch dieback, and decline, and dieback and decline.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plants
Phyllachora chongzhouensis; P. huiliensis; P. neidongensis	  Poaceae family: *Bothriochloa ischaemum*, *Phragmites australis*, and *Themeda triandra* respectively.	 Tar spot.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pests
Potexvirus ecschlumbergerae	  Prickly pear (*Opuntia ficus-indica*).	 Irregular yellow ringspots and cladode malformation.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding (PT)
Potyvirus capsivenamaculae	  Mainly Solanaceae family, including bell pepper (*Capsicum annuum*), pepper (C. *frutescens*), tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), african scarlet eggplant (*Solanum aethiopicum*), tomato (*S. lycopersicum*).	 Leaf and fruit mottling. Dark green mottle confined to veins, and dark green streak on the stem. Chlorotic spots.	✓ IT	Not listed	New host plant
Pratylenchus agilis 	  Carrot (*Daucus carota*), soybean (*Glycine max*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), wheat (*Triticum aestivum*).	 Enlarging lesions and necrotic roots.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First report (TR)
Rhizoctonia theobromae	  Avocado (*Persea americana*), cacao (*Theobroma cacao*).	 Witch's broom. Vascular streak dieback.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding (BR) and new host plant

Rice dwarf polerovirus	Rice (*Oryza sativa*).	Dwarfing and tillering.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
Spiroplasma kunkelii	*Zea* spp., and maize (*Zea mays*) as the major host.	Corn stunt disease.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New finding (US) New finding (US)
Zeuzera multistrigata ⚠	Tea (*Camellia sinensis*), *Casuarina* spp., timor white gum (*Eucalyptus urophylla*), apple (*Malus domestica*), sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*).	On trees, broken branches and holes on shoot, and on shrub damage to the wood, inner cortex and frass.	✕ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plants
Ceratitis capitata	Mainly *Citrus* and *Prunus* spp., also Solanaceae family.	Oviposition punctures and exit holes on fruit and internal feeding and rotting.	✔ Widespread in EU	EPPO alert list	Eradication
Tuta absoluta	Beet (*Beta vulgaris*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), *Solanum* spp., spinach (*Spinacia oleraceae*).	Leaf mines. Fruit borer. Puncture marks, exit holes and frass on leaves and fruit.	✔ Widespread in EU	EPPO alert list	First finding (KR)
Agrilus planipennis	Mainly *Fraxinus* spp.	Internal feeding, plant dieback and death, and abnormal colours on leaves.	✕ Absent from the EU	Priority pest	Management New finding (US)
Anastrepha ludens	Mainly *Citrus* spp., fig (*Ficus carica*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), peach (*Prunus persica*).	Oviposition punctures and exit holes on fruit and internal feeding and rotting.	✕ Absent from the EU	Priority pest	Eradication

Anoplophora glabripennis	  Mainly *Acer* spp., *Betula* spp., *Populus* spp., *Salix* spp.	 Oviposition holes, exit holes, oozing sap, frass, wood shavings, and galleries.	✔ Under official control in FR and IT	Priority pest	New finding
Bactrocera dorsalis	  Very large host range including *Citrus* spp., pepper (*Capsicum frutescens*), melon (*Cucumis melo*), persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*), loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*), apple (*Malus domestica*), bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*).	 Oviposition punctures on fruits, internal feeding of larvae, fruit rotting and premature fruit drop.	✔ Under official control in FR and IT	Priority pest	Eradication
Popillia japonica	  Very large host range including herbaceous and woody plants. Among them important EU crops such as *Prunus* spp., grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*), soybean (*Glycine max*), maize (*Zea mays*), and various ornamental trees and shrubs.	 Skeletonised leaves by adult feeding; larval feeding on roots results in thinning, yellowing, and wilting of grass. In maize, adult feeding on silk results in malformed kernels.	✔ IT, and PT (Azores). Under official control SI	Priority pest	New finding (DE)
Spodoptera frugiperda	  Maize (*Zea mays*), millet (*Panicum miliaceum*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor*), soybean (*Glycine max*), sugarcane (*Saccharum officinarum*), grape vine (*Vitis vinifera*)	 Loss of foliar surface due to larval feeding.	✔ Under eradication in GR, CY, RO Under official control in Canary Islands (ES) and Madeira (PT)	Priority pest	Management Risk Assessment
Xylella fastidiosa	  Very large host range including herbaceous and woody plants. Among them important EU crops such as *Citrus* spp., olive (*Olea europaea*), almond (*Prunus dulcis*), grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*).	 Dieback / reduced growth / plant death. Asymptomatic in some host plants.	✔ Under official control in ES, FR, IT and PT	Priority pest	Epidemiology New vector

Bactrocera tryoni	  *Citrus* spp., pepper (*Capsicum* spp.), apple (*Malus domestica*), avocado (*Persea americana*), peach (*Prunus persica*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*).	 Oviposition punctures on fruits, internal feeding of larvae, fruit rotting and premature fruit drop.	✕ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Eradication
Bretziella fagacearum	  Mainly *Quercus* spp. and (*Castanea* spp.).	 Chlorosis of foliage and necrosis along leaf veins, leading to plant death.	✕ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Detection method
***Candidatus* Phytoplasma aurantifolia**	  *Citrus* spp.	 Mainly abnormal floral organ development, witches' broom.	✕ Quarantine strains absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
Carlavirus chisolani	  Potato (*Solanum tuberosum*).	 Leaf yellowing, curling, mottling, and fruit with abnormal shape and colour.	✕ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
Choristoneura fumiferana	  Coniferous trees.	 Defoliation. If severe, growth reduction and mortality.	✕ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Modelling
Euwallacea fornicatus sensu stricto	  Many fruit and forest species.	 Internal feeding, canker on woody stem, discoloration of bark, gummosis or resinosis, dieback.	✕ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Spread and Management

Lycorma delicatula	  Very large host range including herbaceous and woody plants. Preference is known for *Acer* spp., *Ailanthus altissima*, *Juglans* sp., *Salix* spp. and *Vitis* spp. Other hosts of EU relevance are *Alnus* spp., *Castanea* spp., *Malus domestica*, *Prunus* spp., *Pyrus* spp., *Quercus* sp., *Rosa* sp., *Rubus* spp.	 Oozing wounds on the trunk, wilting and branch dieback from the feeding activity of nymphs and adults.	✗ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Spread and Impact
Meloidogyne enterolobii	  Sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and other vegetables.	 Root galling and stunting.	✔ PT	Quarantine pest	New host plant
Scirtothrips aurantii	  Within its host range there are many fruit species, and the major host is sweet orange (*Citrus x aurantium var. sinensis*).	 Leaf silvering due to sucking injury, feeding marks (rings) on fruits. Leaf senescence and fruit distortion.	✔ ES, PT	Quarantine pest	New finding
Trioza erytreae	  Mainly *Citrus* spp.	V Vector of HLB disease.	✔ ES, PT	Quarantine pest	Eradication
Zeugodacus tau	  Mainly *Citrus* and *Prunus* spp. and Solanaceae.	 Black or brown lesions (oviposition and emergence holes), drop of immature fruits.	✗ Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Eradication

2. Main issues of September 2024

Paecilomyces formosus

⚠ PeMo Positive

Paecilomyces formosus is a plant pathogenic fungus not listed in any EU legal acts or EPPO lists. This newsletter includes one article about this pathogen.

The scientific article selected reports the detection of *P. formosus* associated with declining urban forests in Iran on 14 woody host species, including apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), pine (*Pinus eldarica*) and sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*).

All the articles on *P. formosus* are available on the webpage of MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health.

Trioza erytreae

Trioza erytreae, vector of *Candidatus* Liberibacter, is a regulated insect pest listed in Annex II A of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This newsletter contains one article regarding this psyllid.

The media article reports the eradication in the Portuguese regions of Alentejo and Algarve, providing an example of successful management.

All the articles on *T. erytreae* 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 A of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This newsletter includes two articles about this pathogen.

The articles included are two scientific reports: one describing a new vector (*Mesoptyelus impictifrons*), and the other describing the pathogenicity to highbush blueberry of isolates of the pest present in Europe.

All the articles on *X. 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

Fungi and oomycetes

Diaporthe humulicola

Authority: E. B. Allan-Perkins, D. W. Li, Neil P. Schultes & J.A. LaMondia

Sordariomycetes, Diaporthales, Diaporthaceae

- New finding (CA)

First report of *Diaporthe humulicola* causing halo blight of hop (*Humulus lupulus* L.) in Prince Edward Island, Canada

Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology 30.August.2024

The fungal pathogen *Diaporthe humulicola* has been recorded for the first time in Prince Edward Island, Canada, affecting hop (*Humulus lupulus*). Symptoms such as foliar lesions and severe necrosis of hop cones were observed in hopyards in Harrington and Mount Albion. *D. humulicola* was confirmed as the causative agent through molecular analysis and the fulfillment of Koch's postulates. (more)

Fusarium redolens

Authority: Wollenweber

Sordariomycetes, Hypocreales, Nectriaceae

- New host plant (*Vicia sativa*)

First report of *Fusarium redolens* causing Fusarium Wilt on Vetch (*Vicia sativa*)

Research Square 29.August.2024 – Not peer-reviewed

The fungus *Fusarium redolens* is reported for the first time as the cause of *Fusarium* wilt on vetch (*Vicia sativa*). In 2022, fusarium wilt symptoms were observed in vetch (*Vicia sativa*) fields in Constantine province, Algeria, characterised by wilting, yellowing, and plant death. Morphological and molecular analysis of two recovered isolates confirmed their identity as *F. redolens*, and pathogenicity tests were conducted to fulfill Koch's postulates. (more)

Lasiodiplodia brasiliensis (= L. brasiliense)

Authority: M.S.B. Netto, M.W. Marques & A.J.L. Phillips

Dothideomycetes, Botryosphaeriales, Botryosphaeriaceae

⚠ PeMo Negative

● First finding (CI)

First report of *Lasiodiplodia brasiliense* causing mango dieback in Côte d'Ivoire

New Disease Reports 05.August.2024

The fungus *Lasiodiplodia brasiliensis* (syn.: *L. brasiliense*) has been reported for the first time in Côte d'Ivoire on *Mangifera indica* (mango), with symptoms observed in orchards across several northern regions. Disease incidence ranged from 20 % to 100 %. The pathogen was identified through morphological and molecular analyses, with Koch's postulates subsequently fulfilled. (more)

Lasiodiplodia sp. inquirenda

Authority: K Thangarajah, CJ Emmanuel

Dothideomycetes, Botryosphaeriales, Botryosphaeriaceae

● Taxonomy

Identification of new phylogenetic lineage of *Lasiodiplodia* causing leaf spot and tip necrosis causing agent on *Aloe vera* in Sri Lanka and screening eco-friendly control measures

Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology 31.August.2024

A new phylogenetic lineage of *Lasiodiplodia* was identified as the causative agent of leaf spot and tip necrosis on *Aloe vera* in Sri Lanka, affecting both cultivated and wild plants. Isolates obtained from symptomatic leaves were identified as members of *Lasiodiplodia* based on morphological studies. Molecular analyses suggested that the isolates might represent a new lineage within the genus *Lasiodiplodia*. Koch's postulates validated the pathogenicity of the isolates. (more)

Neopestalotiopsis rosae

Authority: Maharachchikumbura, K.D. Hyde & Crous

Sordariomycetes, Amphisphaeriales, Sporocadaceae

● First finding (IN)

Neopestalotiopsis rosae, a novel pathogen causing leaf blight and crown rot of strawberries in India

Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology 13.August.2024

The fungus *Neopestalotiopsis rosae* is reported for the first time on strawberries in India. The pathogen was identified through morphological and molecular analyses, and pathogenicity tests confirmed *N. rosae* as the causative agent of leaf blight and crown rot in strawberries. (more)

Paecilomyces formosus

Authority: Urquhart

Eurotiomycetes, Eurotiales, Trichocomaceae

⚠ PeMo Positive

● New host plants

Detection of *Paecilomyces formosus* associated with declining urban forests and beetles in Iran

Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology 28.August.2024

The fungus *Paecilomyces formosus* was isolated from 14 woody host species during a survey across five provinces in Iran, that focused on trees displaying symptoms of dieback and decline. Pathogenicity tests confirmed that *P. formosus* is pathogenic to six hosts, namely apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*), ailanthus (*Ailanthus altissima*), cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*), pine (*Pinus eldarica*), sycamore (*Platanus orientalis*), and walnut (*Juglans regia*). Additionally, the fungus was also isolated from several wood-boring beetles, specifically *Aeolesthes sarta*, *Capnodis tenebrionis*, and *Scolytus kirschii*. (more)

Phyllachora chongzhouensis sp. nov.; *Phyllachora huiliensis* sp. nov. and *Phyllachora neidongensis* sp. nov.

Authority: Q.R. Sun, X.L. Xu & C.L. Yang | Q.R. Sun & C.L. Yang

Sordariomycetes, Phyllachorales, Phyllachoraceae

● New pests

Six species of *Phyllachora* with three new taxa on grass from Sichuan province, China

MDPI Journal of Fungi 19.August.2024

This study describes three new *Phyllachora* species, *P. chongzhouensis*, *P. neidongensis*, and *P. huiliensis* isolated from tar spots on various Poaceae hosts in Sichuan Province, China. Additionally, three known species, *P. chloridis*, *P. graminis*, and *P. miscanthi* are redescribed with detailed descriptions, illustrations, and more complete sequence data. (more)

Rhizoctonia theobromae

Authority: (P.H.B. Talbot & Keane) Oberwinkler, R. Bauer, Garnica, R. Kirschner

Agaricomycotina, Ceratobasidiales, Ceratobasidiaceae

■ First finding (BR) and New host plant (*Manihot esculenta*)

Embrapa identifies first case of "Witch's broom" in cassava in Brazil

AgNews 23.August.2024

The fungus *Rhizoctonia theobromae* is reported for the first time on cassava in Brazil. Molecular analysis confirmed the pathogen in samples from infected cassava plantations in the indigenous lands of Oiapoque, Amapá, near the French Guiana border. (more)

Spiroplasma kunkelii

Authority: Whitcomb, Chen, Williamsons, Liao & Tully

Mollicutes, Entomoplasmatales, Spiroplasmataceae

■ New finding (US)

First case of corn stunt confirmed in MO

Brownfield 19.August.2024

Corn stunt disease caused by the bacterial pathogen *Spiroplasma kunkelii* and transmitted by the corn leafhopper (*Dalbulus maidis*), has recently been reported for the first time in the U.S. state of Missouri. (more)

■ New finding (US)

Low levels of corn stunt disease have been confirmed in Kansas

Agronomy eUpdates 29.August.2024

Spiroplasma kunkelii has also been found in the states of Kansas and Oklahoma. *S. kunkelii* was previously on the EPPO Alert List from 2008 to 2012. (more)

Insects and mites

Monomorium destructor (= *Trichomyrmex destructor*)

Authority: (Jerdon)

Insecta, Hymenoptera, Formicidae

● New host plant (*Selenicereus costaricensis*)

First report of the destroyer ant *Trichomyrmex destructor* (Jerdon, 1851) (Hymenoptera, Formicidae, Myrmicinae) as a pest of red dragon fruit *Selenicereus costaricensis* (Cactaceae): a case of extrafloral nectaries, evolved for self-defense, ended up becoming a source of harm to the plant

Research Square 12.August.2024 – Not-peer reviewed

The destroyer ant, *Monomorium destructor* (= *Trichomyrmex destructor)*, is newly reported as a pest of the red dragon fruit *Selenicereus costaricensis* in SW India (state of Kerala). This extremely polyphagous species, which is already present in the EU (Cyprus and Spain) feeds on the areoles, scale leaves and surrounding green tissues at the base of spines of *S. costaricensis*. Up to 90 % of fruits and flowers were infested and also damaged. Damaged plant parts turn yellow and then necrotize. (more)

Zeuzera multistrigata

Authority: Moore

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Cossidae

⚠ PeMo Negative

● New host plant (*Coffea arabica*, *Glyptostrobus pensilis* and *Passiflora edulis*)

Zeuzera multistrigata Moore (Lepidoptera: Cossidae) damaging three new host plants in Vietnam

Ecologica Montenegrina 27.August.2024

Stem borers in the genus *Zeuzera* are among the most important insect pests of plants. *Z. multistrigata* is a polyphagous species cited on *Casuarina equisetifolia* in China, *Persea bombycina* and *Litsaea monopetala* in India, and *Eucalyptus* spp. in Vietnam. Recently, this species has been reported to produce widespread damage in *Glyptostrobus pensilis* (Cupressacae) plantations in Vietnam. It has also been reported attacking *Coffea arabica* and *Passiflora edulis* in this country. (more)

Nematodes

Belonolaimus longicaudatus

Authority: Rau

Chromadorea, Rhabditidia, Dolichodoridae

● New finding (US)

First report and molecular variability of *Belonolaimus longicaudatus* associated with turfgrass in Maryland

Sciendo 24.August.2024

The nematode *Belonolaimus longicaudatus*, known for its impact on various crops in sandy soils and in particular its effect on turfgrass, has been reported for the first time in Maryland. This study confirmed the presence of *B. longicaudatus* in turfgrass soil from an asymptomatic athletic field in Baltimore County, Maryland, using both morphological and molecular methods. (more)

Pratylenchus agilis

Authority: Thorne and Malek

Chromadorea, Rhabditidia, Pratylenchidae

⚠ PeMo Negative

● First finding (TR)

Distribution, morphological and molecular characterization of root-lesion nematodes (*Pratylenchus* spp.) (Tylenchida: Pratylenchidae) in maize (*Zea mays* L.) (Poales: Poaceae) in Türkiye

Molecular Biology Reports 19.July.2024

This study investigated the distribution and identity of root-lesion nematodes (*Pratylenchus* spp.) in maize fields across the Black Sea region of Türkiye, identifying six species. Molecular and morphological analyses confirmed the presence of *P. agilis*, *P. mediterraneus*, *P. neglectus*, *P. penetrans*, *P. thornei*, and *P. vulnus*, with *P. agilis* reported in Türkiye for the first time. The study found that 51.3 % of the surveyed maize production areas were infected with these nematodes. (more)

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Ilarvirus TSV

Viruses, *Bromoviridae*, *Ilarvirus*

- New host plant (*Gloriosa superba*)

First report on the occurrence of *Tobacco streak virus* in glory lily in India

Journal of Plant Pathology 12.August.2024

The article reports the first finding of *Ilarvirus TSV* (= *Tobacco streak virus*), an ilarvirus with a relatively broad host range, in symptomatic plants of Glory lily (*Gloriosa superba* L.), thus extending the known natural host range of *Ilarvirus TSV*. (more)

Mastrevirus storeyi (= *Maize streak virus*)

Viruses, *Geminiviridae*, *Mastrevirus*

- First finding (PH)

First report of *Maize streak virus* affecting maize in the Philippines

New Disease Reports 15.August.2024

This article reports the first detection of *Mastrevirus storeyi* (= *Maize streak virus*), a *Cicadulina*-borne mastrevirus, on corn in the Philippines, thus extending the known geographic distribution of this important corn virus. (more)

Olive leaf mottling virus

Viruses, *Closteroviridae*, *Olivavirus*

- New pest

Olive leaf mottling virus: A new member of the genus *Olivavirus*

MDPI Plants 17.August.2024

An analysis of the virome of Spanish olive trees with symptoms of leaf mottling by high-throughput sequencing (HTS) revealed the presence of a new virus in the *Olivavirus* genus of the *Closteroviridae* family, which has been named *Olive leaf mottling virus* (OLMV). (more)

Potyvirus capsivenamaculae (= *Chili veinal mottle virus*)

Viruses, *Potyviridae*, *Potyvirus*

- New host plant (*Lactuca sativa*)

First report of *Chilli veinal mottle virus* infecting *Lactuca sativa* in China

Journal of Plant Pathology 26.August.2024

Potyvirus capsivenamaculae (= *Chili veinal mottle virus*) is a potyvirus that is widespread in Asia and infects solanaceous hosts, The article reports its identification in symptomatic lettuce plants in the Guizhou Province (southwest China), thus extending *P. capsivenamaculae* known natural host range. (more)

Potexvirus ecschlumbergerae (= *Schlumbergera virus X*)

Viruses, *Alphaflexiviridae*, *Potexvirus*

- First finding (PT)

First report of *Schlumbergera virus X* infecting dragon fruit (*Selenicereus* spp.) in Portugal

Journal of Plant Pathology 09.August.2024

The article reports the first detection of *Potexvirus ecschlumbergerae* (= *Schlumbergera virus X)*, a cactus-infecting potexvirus, in dragon fruit (*Selenicereus* spp.) in Portugal, thus extending the known geographical distribution of this virus. (more)

Rice dwarf polerovirus

Viruses, *Solemoviridae*, *Polerovirus*

- New pest

Discovery of a novel whitefly- and aphid-transmitted polerovirus on rice plants with dwarfing and fewer tillering symptoms

Crop Health 06.August.2024

The article reports the detection and characterization of a new polerovirus from symptomatic rice plants in China. Remarkable the virus was shown to be transmitted by two completely different vectors, i.e., whiteflies and aphids. This new virus has been named *Rice dwarf polerovirus*. (more)

3.1.2 EPPO lists

Insects and mites

Tuta absoluta

Authority: (Meyrick)

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Gelechiidae

● First finding (KR)

First report of *Phthorimaea absoluta* (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae) in Korea

Journal of Integrated Pest Management 24.August.2024

This article reports the first finding of *Tuta absoluta* causing damage to commercial tomatoes, particularly in organic farms, in South Korea. (more)

Ceratitis capitata

Authority: (Wiedemann)

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Tephritidae

■ Eradication

USDA and CDFA Declare California Free of Invasive Fruit Flies

APHIS USDA 27.August.2024

The USDA declared five species of fruit flies introduced into California as successfully eradicated. These were Oriental (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), Tau (*Zeugodacus tau*), Queensland (*B. tryoni*), Mexican (*Anastrepha ludens*) and Mediterranean (*Ceratitis capitata*) fruit flies. As a consequence, quarantines have been lifted across Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernadino, Santa Clara, San Diego, Riverside, and Ventura Counties, freeing thousands of acres of commercial agriculture from restriction. (more)

3.2. Regulated pests

3.1.3 Priority pests[11]

Bacteria

Xylella fastidiosa

Authority: Wells, Raju, Hung, Weisburg, Parl & Beemer

Gammaproteobacteria, Lysobacterales, Lysobacteraceae

● New vector

A new vector of *Xylella fastidiosa*: The role of *Mesoptyelus impictifrons* as a vector in Israel

Phytopathology 14.August.2024

This paper demonstrates that the spittlebug *Mesoptyelus impictifrons*, which is known to occur in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Egypt, is likely the main vector of *Xylella fastidiosa* in northern Israel, thus adding to the list of Old World vectors of *X. fastidiosa*. (more)

● Epidemiology

European *Xylella fastidiosa* strains can cause symptoms in blueberry

Plant Disease 17.August.2024

This article provides experimental demonstration of *Xylella fastidiosa* isolates present in Europe to cause a disease on highbush blueberry. Isolates causing symptoms include some but not all *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* and *pauca* isolated from symptomatic almond and olive plants in Spain and Italy, indicating the EU Blueberry crops may be at risk. (more)

Insects and mites

Agrilus planipennis

Authority: Fairmaire

Insecta, Coleoptera, Buprestidae

■ Management

Emerald Ash Borer: Study Offers Mixed Signals on Drivers of Effective Biological Control

Entomology Today 01.August.2024

The influence of tree species richness, ash density, and proportion of total ash basal area on ash canopy condition, larval densities, and biocontrol by woodpeckers and parasitoids

[11] 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

in pairs of healthy and declining overstory (DBH > 10 cm) and recruit-sized ash (DBH 2–10 cm) in 4 post-invasion forests in Michigan, USA was evaluated. Tree species richness and ash density were not significantly associated with *A. planipennis* larval densities, ash canopy dieback and transparency, and woodpecker predation of *A. planipennis* larvae. In declining and healthy overstory ash, woodpeckers killed 38.5 and 13.2 % of larvae, respectively, while the native parasitoid *Phasgonophora sulcata* killed 15.8 and 8.3 % and the introduced parasitoid *Spathius galinae* killed 10.8 and 5.0 % of EAB larvae. Parasitism by *P. sulcata* was inversely related to ash density while parasitism by *S. galinae* was positively associated with ash density. Ash density, but not tree diversity, appears to differentially influence biological control of *A. planipennis* by parasitoids, but this effect is not associated with reduced *A. planipennis* densities or improved canopy condition. (more)[12]

■ New finding (US)

A dreaded, tree-killing beetle has reached North Dakota

AP News 22.August.2024

The Department of Agriculture of North Dakota confirmed the collection of several adult beetles of *A. planipennis* from a trap near Edgeley in LaMoure County. This county has been put in quarantine, which means people can't transport untreated firewood out of the county. (more)

Anastrepha ludens and *Bactrocera dorsalis*

Authority: (Loew) | (Hendel)
Insecta, Lepidoptera, Tephritidae

■ Eradication

USDA and CDFA Declare California Free of Invasive Fruit Flies

APHIS USDA 19.August.2024

The USDA declared five species of fruit flies introduced into California as successfully eradicated. These were Oriental (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), Tau (*Zeugodacus tau*), Queensland (*B. tryoni*), Mexican (*Anastrepha ludens*) and Mediterranean (*Ceratitis capitata*) fruit flies. As a consequence, quarantines have been lifted across Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernadino, Santa Clara, San Diego, Riverside, and Ventura Counties, freeing thousands of acres of commercial agriculture from restriction. (more)

Anoplophora glabripennis

Authority: Motschulsky
Insecta, Coleoptera, Cerambycidae

■ New finding (JP)

特定外来カミキリ、野木で初確認　県内５市町目

Specified invasive longhorn beetle confirmed in Nogi for the first time in five prefecture cities and towns

SOON 28.August.2024

Anoplophora glabripennis has been found in Nogi, in the prefecture of Tochigi, a prefecture where, according to the article, the insect had been previously found four additional times. (more)

[12] Scientific article published in June 2024: https://doi.org/10.1093/ee/nvae060

Popillia japonica

Authority: Newman

Insecta, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae

■ New finding (DE)

Der Japankäfer und seine einheimischen Verwandten – aktuelle Situation in Bayern

The Japanese beetle and its native relatives – current situation in Bavaria

LfL Bayern 14.August.2024

A specimen of *Popillia japonica* has been discovered in Bavaria - near Lindau in a trap containing attractants. Its discovery in Bavaria has now been officially confirmed. This is another finding of *P. japonica* in a trap in Germany. (more)

Spodoptera frugiperda

Authority: (Smith)

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

● Management

Pastoral grasses and legumes as potential host plants for fall armyworm *Spodoptera frugiperda* (J.E. Smith) development

International Journal of Tropical Insect Science 12.August.2024

This study was undertaken to determine the potential hosts of *Spodoptera frugiperda* in northern Western Australia during the wet season, when main hosts are not present. No-choice feeding assays were used to assess larval and pupal development on several grasses and legumes that are present over the wet season in northern Western Australia. This study demonstrates the potential for rangeland pasture grasses and weedy grasses as they provide the necessary green bridge for *S. frugiperda* populations to survive. Therefore, action may be necessary if significant reductions in biomass are detected. (more)

● Risk Assessment

Spodoptera frugiperda (J.E. Smith) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae): Risks for Slovenian agriculture and feasibility of conducting pre-emptive risk assessment for some of its natural enemies

Biological Control October.2024

This paper examines the potential risk that *Spodoptera frugiperda* poses to Slovenian maize production. Using the maximum entropy algorithm, the climate suitability of Slovenia for *S. frugiperda* as well as for four of its exotic parasitoids is calculated. Results indicate an increasing risk of occurrence of *S. frugiperda* in Slovenia, especially in regions with extensive maize cultivation. Projections under different climate change scenarios show that, the likelihood of some of these exotic parasitoids thriving in Slovenia is particularly high. In this context, pre-emptive biological control presents a promising approach. (more)

3.1.4 Quarantine pests[13,14]

Annex II Part A

Fungi and oomycetes

Bretziella fagacearum

Authority: (Bretz) Z.W. de Beer, Marincowitz, T.A. Duong & M.J. Wingfield
Sordariomycetes, Microascales, Ceratocystidaceae

● Detection method

A rapid LAMP assay for the diagnosis of oak wilt with the naked eye

BMC Plant Methods 06.August.2024

A new rapid LAMP assay has been developed for detecting *Bretziella fagacearum*, the fungal pathogen responsible for oak wilt. The assay shows high diagnostic sensitivity and specificity for the target pathogen and can detect *B. fagacearum* in crude DNA extracts (without purification steps) from diseased oak wood samples. This makes the assay a promising tool for rapid field testing of oak wilt. (more)

Insects and mites

Bactrocera tryoni and *Zeugodacus tau*

Authority: (Froggatt) | (Walker)
Insecta, Lepidoptera, Tephritidae

■ Eradication

USDA and CDFA Declare California Free of Invasive Fruit Flies

APHIS USDA 19.August.2024

The USDA declared five species of fruit flies introduced into California as successfully eradicated. These were Oriental (*Bactrocera dorsalis*), Tau (*Zeugodacus tau*), Queensland (*B. tryoni*), Mexican (*Anastrepha ludens*) and Mediterranean (*Ceratitis capitata*) fruit flies. As a consequence, quarantines have been lifted across Contra Costa, Los Angeles, Orange, Sacramento, San Bernadino, Santa Clara, San Diego, Riverside, and Ventura Counties, freeing thousands of acres of commercial agriculture from restriction. (more)

[13] 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

[14] 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.

Choristoneura fumiferana

Authority: (Clemens)

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Tortricidae

● Modelling

Temperature fluctuations influence predictions of landscape-scale patterns of spruce budworm defoliation

BioRXiV 19.August.2024 – Not-peer reviewed

A species distribution model approach was used to evaluate the influence of temperature fluctuations on the distribution and severity of spruce budworm defoliation in Quebec (Canada). Results demonstrated that model performance improved with the inclusion of temperature fluctuation predictors, and these predictors ranked highly, relative to predictors in other categories. These results reveal the previously overlooked importance of temperature fluctuations on landscape-scale spruce budworm defoliation and support their inclusion in insect species distribution models. (more)

Euwallacea fornicatus sensu stricto

Authority: (Eichhoff)

Insecta, Coleoptera, Curculionidae

■ Spread and Management

Movement of green waste outside Perth quarantine zone likely behind shot-hole borer spread, scientist says

ABC Australia 21.August.2024

Spread of *Euwallacea fornicates sensu stricto* out of the metropolitan area of Perth (Western Australia) is most likely caused by people inadvertently spreading it through mulch and green waste after pruning and chopping trees. (more)

Lycorma delicatula

Authority: (White)

Insecta, Hemiptera, Fulgoridae

● Spread and Impact

Modeling human activity-related spread of the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) in the US

PLoS One 14.August.2024

A computational model based on the human activity related factors; primary interstate highways, garden centres and population, was developed to depict spread of *Lycorma delicatula* in the USA. The model reproduced both qualitative and quantitative features of the spread through 2014–21. Using the computational model over a larger region of the US to forecast the spread of infestation beyond 2021 suggests that spread will accelerate over this period if the spread is driven by the factors included in the model. (more)

Scirtothrips aurantii

Authority: Faure

Insecta, Thysanoptera, Thripidae

■ New finding (ES)

El trips sudafricano de los cítricos, también en Castellón

South African citrus thrips, also in Castellón

Phytoma 30.August.2024

This article reports the first finding of *Scirtothrips aurantii* in citrus orchards in the province of Castelló, which completes the spread of this thrips to the three provinces that make the Region of Valencia. So far, the thrips has been detected on new leaf flushes with no fruit damage. Growers, though, think that the situation could worsen next season if the thrips invade the fruits. (more)

Trioza erytreae

Authority: (Del Guercio)

Insecta, Hemiptera, Triozidae

■ Eradication

DGAV declara *Trioza erytreae* erradicado nas regiões do Alentejo e do Algarve

DGAV declares *Trioza erytreae* eradicated in the Alentejo and Algarve regions

Frutas Legumes e Flores 02.August.2024

The Directorate-General for Food and Veterinary Affairs (DGAV) has updated the Demarcated Zone for *Trioza erytreae* in Portugal. According to the entity, this insect pest can be officially considered as "eradicated" in the regions of Alentejo and Algarve. (more)

Nematodes

Meloidogyne enterolobii

Authority: Yang & Eisenback

Chromadorea, Rhabditidia, Meloidogynidae

● New host plant (*Hylocereus* spp.)

First report of *Meloidogyne enterolobii* infecting dragon fruit, Hylocereus spp., in the United States

New Disease Reports 05.August.2024

The root-knot nematode *Meloidogyne enterolobii* has been reported for the first time infecting dragon fruit (*Hylocereus* spp.) in the United States, specifically in Homestead, Florida. Two dragon fruit orchards were sampled, where affected plants exhibited leaf yellowing, stunted growth, and wilting. The nematode was identified through both morphological and molecular analyses, with a pathogenicity test confirming that dragon fruit is a susceptible host for *M. enterolobii*. (more)

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Candidatus Phytoplasma aurantifolia

Authority: Zreik, Bové & Garnier

Mollicutes, Acholeplasmatales, Acholeplasmataceae

- New host plant (*Cucumis sativus*)

Identification and molecular characterization of a 16SrII-A phytoplasma associated with cucumber phyllody in China

MDPI Agronomy 22.August.2024

The article reports the characterization of the phytoplasma associated with phyllody symptoms on cucumber in China. The characterized agent belongs to the 16SrII-A subgroup, together with *Candidatus* Phytoplasma aurantifolia, representing a new host and disease associated with this group. (more)

- Management

Optimal management of citrus disease and extreme climatic factors

Trees, Forests and People 30.August.2024

This study develops a bioeconomic model to determine the optimal management strategy for the Witches' Broom Disease of Lime (WBDL) caused by *Candidatus* Phytoplasma aurantifolia. It examines various scenarios of disease presence and spread across arid, semi-arid, and tropical climate zones in Oman to determine the optimal replanting age of lime trees and effective management. The findings suggest that more intensive treatments are required in arid regions, and lime production should be prioritised in the tropical and semi-arid zones of the country. (more)

Carlavirus chisolani (= *Potato virus H*)

Viruses, Betaflexiviridae, Carlavirus

- New host plant (*Solanum lycopersicum*)

First report of *Potato virus H* infecting tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) in China

Plant Disease 08.August.2024

Carlavirus chisolani (= *Potato virus H*) was initially discovered in potato plants in Inner Mongolia, China and remains a very poorly known virus. The article reports its identification in symptomatic tomatoes in the Yunnan province of China, thus extending the known natural host range of *C. chisolani*. (more)

3.3. General interest

Building integrated plant health surveillance: a proactive research agenda for anticipating and mitigating disease and pest emergence

CABI Agriculture and Bioscience 17.August.2024

The paper outlines a strategy for enhancing and integrating plant health surveillance to better anticipate pests. It advocates a multi-disciplinary approach focusing on four key areas: predicting pest emergence, utilising advanced diagnostics, adopting new surveillance perspectives, and establishing cooperative systems. The paper highlights the importance of data integration through open science databases and emphasises a One Health approach to address interconnected risks to plants, humans, animals, and the environment. (more)

Q-Tephrikey, an interactive tool for the identification of regulated fruit fly pests in the European Union

EPPO Bulletin 26.August.2024

To help National Reference Laboratories in the EU, the EU Reference Laboratory for Insects and Mites developed an interactive and multi-entry online key called Q-Tephrikey. It covers a total of 113 tephritid taxa, encompassing the 75 regulated taxa (66 species and nine genera), 12 species listed as non-regulated exceptions and the species that have been intercepted in Europe. The taxa are encoded in two morphological matrices for adults and for larvae (for 38 out of the 113 taxa only). To help the diagnosticians, the key includes the distributions and host ranges of each taxon.(more)

Product created using Text and Data Mining based on EMM Open Source Monitoring Engine by European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC)

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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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