EUROPEAN FOOD SAFETY AUTHORITY

Plant Health Newsletter on HORIZON SCANNING

April 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 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, 2021[2] 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[3] 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 month[4] with the support of EFSA staff and contractors. The EPPO Global Database[5], CABI Crop Protection Compendium[6] and previous EFSA outputs[7] 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, 2022[8]) 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				
PeMoScoring	**Host**	**Host range**	**Damage**	**EU distribution**
Negative PeMo Scoring	Forest plants	Monophagous / One host plant	Qualitative losses	Present in the EU
Positive PeMo Scoring	Fruit plants	Oligophagous / Restricted range of host plants	Quantitative losses	Absent from the EU
	Vegetables	Polyphagous / Wide range of host plants	Damage leading to plant death	
	Ornamental and flower plants		Vector	
	Cereals			
	Oil and fibre plants			
	Other plants			

Pest	Hosts	Host range	Damage and symptoms	EU distribution	Regulatory status	Topic
Brenneria goodwinii	Oak	*Quercus* spp.	Agent of acute oak decline: stem bleeding or oozing from bark cracks, plant death within three to five years	✔ ES, LV, PL, PT, SK	Not listed	First finding
***Candidatus* Phytoplasma trifolii**	Alfalfa, honey clover, tobacco, tomato, potato		Witches' broom, yellowing and little leaf	✔ CZ, ES, IT, PL	Not listed	New host plant
Colletotrichum aenigma	Dragon fruit, pepper, walnut		Reddish-brown spots with brown, water-soaked centres, and leaf death	✔ IT	Not listed	New host plant
***Diaporthe solani-melongenae* sp. nov.**	Eggplant		Leaf and fruit blights	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
***Diaporthe talong* sp. nov.**	Eggplant		Leaf and fruit blights	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
Gibbsiella quercinecans	Oak		Acute oak decline	✔ ES, LV, PL	Not listed	First finding

Heterodera zeae	Maize, rice, wheat	Poaceae	Patchy, stunted, pale-green plants with poor root development and reduced growth	GR, ES, PT, SI	Not listed	New finding
Hibiscus latent Fort Pierce virus ⚠	Rose mallow, big-sage, passion flower		Diffuse chlorotic spots and rings. Overall chlorotic mottle	IT	Not listed	First finding and new host plant
Hibiscus latent Singapore virus ⚠	Rose mallow, big-sage		Leaves wrinkling and chlorotic local lesions	Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding and new host plant
Neurospora dictyophora	Strawberry		Loss of turgor and fruit dehydration. Rot symptom at ripening	Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
***Nothophoma juglandis* sp. nov.**	English walnut		Heart rot disease	Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
***Parvodontia relampaga* sp. nov**	Ash, holly, magnolia, willow, vine, and bilberry		Relampago blight	Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest

Pectobacterium aroidearum	Chinese cabbage, arum lily, aroid palm		Bacterial soft rot	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plant
Phytophthora acerina	Olive tree, sycamore maple tree		Decline and death associated with branch dieback, root and collar rot	✔ IT	Not listed	New host plant
Pineapple mealybug wilt-associated viruses 1, 2 and 3	Pineapple and false pineapple		Mealybug wilt of pineapple	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New finding
Pythium banihashemianum sp. nov.	Rice		Severe root and crown rot	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
Pythium uncinulatum	Lettuce		Stunting, yellowing and wilting or outer leaves	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plant
Rahnella victoriana	Oak		Acute oak decline	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding
Septoria cannabicola sp. nov.	Hemp		Yellow spots on lower leaves progress to brown lesions. Premature defoliation of older leaves	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest

***Stigmella colchica* sp. nov.**	Stone fruit trees	*Prunus* sp. *Cerasus* sp.	Leaf mining	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
Tamarillo fruit ring virus ⚠	Tamarillo	Solenaceae	Distortion, arcs and pale mottling	× Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding and new host plant
Zaprionus tuberculatus	Fig, litchee, sweet orange, other fruits		Infests overripe, fallen or rotting fruit	✔ BG, CY, FR, GR, IT, ES, MT, RO	Not listed	New finding (BR)
Agrilus planipennis	Major host ash trees	*Fraxinus* sp.	Internal feeding, whole plant dieback and death, also abnormal colours on leaves	× Absent from the EU	Priority pest	Management
Xylella fastidiosa	Mainly almond, grapevine, olive, citrus		Dieback / reduced growth / plant death. Asymptomatic in some species or cultivars	✔ Under official control in ES, FR, IT and PT	Priority pest	Identification method
Anisogramma anomala	Hazelnut		Eastern filbert blight	× Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New pest and resistance
Bactrocera carambolae	Many host plants from different families including citrus, tomato or avocado		Oviposition scars on fruit. Fruit drop and rotting	× Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	First finding

***Candidatus* Phytoplasma aurantifolia**	Mainly Lime	Rutaceae	Witches' broom disease, dieback	× Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
***Gymnosporangium mori* comb. nov.**	Mulberry	Moraceae	Rust disease	× Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Taxonomy
Scirtothrips dorsalis	Bell pepper, celery, tea		Young leaf distortion	✓ ES	Quarantine pest	New finding
Sida leaf curl virus	Country mallow, flannel weed, tomato, tobacco		Leaf curling, vein thickening and enation	× Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
Tomato leaf curl Karnataka virus	Soybean, tomato, pumpkin, pepper, sunflower, petunia, zucchini, eggplant		Leaf curl disease	× Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	New host plant
Tomato brown rugose fruit virus	Mainly pepper and tomato		Foliar chlorosis, mosaic and mottling, necrotic spots on peduncles, calyces and petioles, yellow or brown spots on fruits	✓ Under official control	Emergency measures	First finding

2. Main issues of April 2024

Scirtothrips dorsalis

Scirtothrips dorsalis is a cryptic species complex listed in Annex II A of the Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2072. This newsletter includes one article about this pest.

The media article reports a new finding in Spain, in the province of Almeria. This is a cryptic species complex of at least 9 different species (South Asia 1 and 2; East Asia 1, 2, 3, and 4; and Australia 1, 2, and 3). Because members of a cryptic species complex may differ on several biological parameters, and because in the case of *S. dorsalis* this includes their invasiveness, it is crucial to characterise the pest species present in the EU.

All the articles on *S. dorsalis* are available on the webpage of MEDISYS EFSA Plant Health.

Xylella fastidiosa

Xylella fastidiosa is a plant pathogenic bacterium regulated as a priority pest in the EU 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 one article about this pathogen.

The article selected is the first approach to a molecular tool that allows the differentiation between *X. fastidiosa* and *X. taiwanensis*. It reports the development and validation of a sensitive conventional PCR assay for the detection of all known species and subspecies within the *Xylella* genus.

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

Bacteria

Brenneria goodwinii[9]*; Gibbsiella quercinecans* and *Rahnella victoriana*

Authority: Denman, Brady, Kirk, Cleenwerck, Venter, Coutinho & de Vos | Brady et al.

Gammaproteobacteria, Enterobacterales, *Pectobacteriaceae* | *Enterobacteriaceae* | *Yersiniaceae*

- First finding (FR)

First report of *Brenneria goodwinii*, *Gibbsiella quercinecans* and *Rahnella victoriana* in declining oaks in France

New Disease Reports 26.Mar.2024

The Acute Oak Decline (AOD) associated bacteria *Brenneria goodwinii*, *Gibbsiella quercinecans* and *Rahnella victoriana* have been reported for the first time in France. Following observations of oak dieback, a preliminary study was conducted in five French forests which isolated *G. quercinecans* and *B. goodwinii* in four forests, and *R. victoriana* in three forests, with all three species found on both *Quercus robur* and *Q. petraea*. Further research is underway to investigate the role of these bacteria in the observed oak decline and their interactions with other contributing factors in AOD. (more)

Pectobacterium aroidearum

Authority: Nabhan, de Boer, Maiss & Wydra

Gammaproteobacteria, Enterobacterales, *Pectobacteriaceae*

- New host plant

First report of *Pectobacterium aroidearum* causing soft rot on *Ficus carica* in Korea

Research in Plant Disease 31.Mar.2024

Pectobacterium aroidearum has been reported for the first time as the causative agent of soft rot on *Ficus carica* in Korea. Symptoms were observed on the stems of fig trees in July 2021. (more)

[9] Express PRA published by JKI in July 2020: https://pra.eppo.int/pra/d47669af-5708-4844-9e50-35fd2d608ffb

Fungi and oomycetes

Colletotrichum aenigma[10]

Authority: B.S. Weir & P.R. Johnston

Sordariomycetes, Glomerellales, Glomerellaceae

● New host plant

First report of leaf spot on Korean raspberry caused by *Colletotrichum aenigma*

Australasian Plant Disease Notes 13.Mar.2024

The fungus *Colletotrichum aenigma* is reported for the first time as the causal agent of leaf spot on Korean raspberry (*Rubus crataegifolius*). Leaf spots resembling anthracnose were noted on Korean raspberry plants in Gimhae, South Korea, during the summers of both 2022 and 2023, with approximately 20 % of the plants in the affected orchard showing signs of infection. *C. aenigma* was identified as the pathogen responsible for the observed symptoms based on fungal isolation, morphological features, molecular identification, and pathogenicity tests. (more)

Diaporthe solani-melongenae sp. nov. and *Diaporthe talong* sp. nov.

Authority: Aumentado, H.D., Balendres, M.A.

Sordariomycetes, Hypocreales, Nectriaceae

● New pest

Novel species and new records of *Diaporthe* causing eggplant leaf and fruit blight in the Philippines

Mycological Progress 25.Mar.2024

This study identified the causative agents of leaf and fruit blight of eggplant in the Philippines, through morphological and molecular analysis, alongside pathogenicity testing. Forty isolates of *Diaporthe* species, were collected from symptomatic eggplant leaves and fruits from various provinces in the Philippines. The fungal isolates belonged to the two major *Diaporthe* species complexes— *D. arecae* species complex (DASC) and *D. sojae* species complex (DSSC). Known eggplant blight pathogen *D. vexans* was the dominant species in the country and the most pathogenic. Two novel species (*D. solani-melongenae* and *D. talong*) are reported. In summary, this study identified six *Diaporthe* species (*D. arecae*, *D. melongenae*, *D. passiforicola*, *D. solani-melongenae*, *D. talong*, and *D. vexans*) as causative agents of eggplant blight in the Philippines. (more)

Neurospora dictyophora

Authority: Rivera, A., Morales-Mora, L.A., Mauricio-Gutiérrez, A., Romero-Arenas, O., Contreras-Paredes, C.A. & Villa-Ruano, N.

Sordariomycetes, Sordariales, Sordariaceae

● New pest

New fungal disease of strawberry fruits caused by *Neurospora dictyophora* in Mexico

New Disease Reports 21.Mar.2024

[10] Pest Categorisation published by EFSA in August 2022: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7529

Neurospora dictyophora in Mexico is reported. In spring 2020, a strawberry crop experienced fruit rot affecting approximately 50 % of production in two greenhouses. Loss of turgor and fruit dehydration accompanied the rot symptoms at ripening. Morphological and molecular analyses identified *N. dictyophora*, with pathogenicity tests confirming its ability to induce soft rot and lesions symptoms. Inadequate ventilation and high temperatures of 30 °C likely created favourable conditions for the development of the fungus. (more)

Nothophoma juglandis sp. nov.

Authority: Zhao L., Sun W., Zhang L., Yin Y., Xie Y. & Zhang Y.

Dothideomycetes, Pleosporales, Didymellaceae

● New pest

Heart rot disease of walnut Caused by *Nothophoma juglandis* sp. nov. and its endophytic biocontrol agent

Plant Disease 19.Mar.2024

The fungus *Nothophoma juglandis*, a species new to science, was identified from diseased stem samples collected in walnut (*Juglans regia*) plantations located in Beijing, China. Koch's postulates confirmed *N. juglandis* as the causal agent of walnut heart rot disease seen in these walnut plantations. The optimal temperatures for both mycelial growth and pathogenicity of *N. juglandis* were found to be 26.6 °C and 27.0 °C, respectively, in vitro, which are also commonly observed during the summer in walnut-growing regions in China. (more)

Parvodontia relampaga sp. nov.

Authority: C.A. Paez, Nakasone, J.A. Sm. & M.E. Sm.

Agaricomycetes, Polyporales, Cystostereaceae

● New pest

Parvodontia relampaga sp. nov.: A Cystostereaceae fungal pathogen that is the causal agent of relampago blight of woody plants in Florida, USA

Fungal Biology 07.Mar.2024

A novel fungal pathogen, *Parvodontia relampaga* sp. nov. is described as the causal agent of thread blight of several woody plants in Florida, USA. The pathogenicity of *P. relampaga* was confirmed in greenhouse inoculations on host plants *Afrocarpus falcatus*, *Ligustrum japonicum*, and *Quercus hemisphaerica*. (more)

Phytophthora acerina

Authority: B. Ginetti

Oomycetes, Peronosporales, Peronosporaceae

● New host plant

First report of *Phytophthora acerina* and *Phytophthora palmivora* causing root rot, bleeding cankers and dieback of English walnut in Italy

New Disease Reports 12.Mar.2024

The oomycetes *Phytophthora acerina* and *P. palmivora* have been reported for the first time causing root rot, bleeding cankers and dieback of English walnut (*Juglans regia*). Severe decline was observed in two Italian orchards between 2017 and 2022 with four

Phytophthora species, *P. acerina*, *P. cambivora*, *P. palmivora* and *P. plurivora* identified through morphological, molecular, and pathogenicity analyses. *P. palmivora* is known to be present in several countries including France, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland, and Spain, whereas *P. acerina* has been reported only previously from Italy. (more)

Pythium banihashemianum sp. nov.

Authority: Salmaninezhad, F., Mostowfizadeh-Ghalamfarsa, R., & Cacciola, S.O.

Oomycetes, Oomycetes, Pythiaceae

- New pest

Pythium banihashemianum sp. nov. and *Globisporangium izadpanahii* sp. nov. Two new oomycete species from rice paddies in Iran

Preprints 25.Mar.2024 – Not peer-reviewed

An examination of oomycete diversity in rice paddies of Fars Province in Iran identified two new *Pythium* species: *Globisporangium izadpanahii* sp. nov. and *Pythium banihashemianum* sp. nov. Pathogenicity tests on rice seedlings demonstrated that *P. banihashemianum* isolates were highly pathogenic, inducing severe root and crown rot, while *G. izadpanahii* isolates were not pathogenic. (more)

Pythium uncinulatum

Authority: Plaats-Niterink & Blok

Oomycetes, Oomycetes, Pythiaceae

- New host plant

First report of *Globisporangium uncinulatum* (syn. *Pythium uncinulatum*) causing pythium wilt of artichoke in California

Plant Disease 28.Mar.2024

The oomycete *Pythium uncinulatum* has been reported as the causal agent of phytium wilt of artichoke in California. This is the first association of this host to *P. uncinulatum*, thus the article reports a new host plant for the pathogen. (more)

Septoria cannabicola sp. nov.

Authority: Ujat AH, Konishi S, Kato Y, Tonami H, Nakashima C

Dothideomycetes, Mycosphaerellales, Mycosphaerellaceae

- New pest

Septoria cannabicola, a new species on *Cannabis sativa* from Japan

Mycoscience 02.Mar.2024

A novel fungal species, *Septoria cannabicola*, is reported on *Cannabis sativa* in Japan. Through morphological and molecular analyses of symptomatic leaves collected from commercial hemp fields in Mie Prefecture, Japan, the new species was discovered. Pathogenicity tests confirmed its ability to cause leaf spot disease. Previous reports attribute leaf spot disease in *C. sativa* to *S. cannabis*, although the description of this pathogen relied only on morphological characteristics. This study provides additional details on molecular data and morphology, consequently establishing that *S. cannabicola* is a causal agent of leaf spot in *C. sativa* in Japan. (more)

Insects and mites

Stigmella colchica sp. nov.

Authority: Stonis, J.R., Diškus, A., Orlovskytė, S., & Dobrynina, V.

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Nepticulidae

● New pest

Revealing a novel potential pest of plum trees in the caucasus: a species resembling the European leaf-mining *Stigmella plagicolella*, Nepticulidae

MDPI Insects 15.Mar.2024

This article reports the identification of *Stigmella colchica* sp. nov. (Lepidoptera, Nepticulidae), a previously unknown potential plum-tree pest in the Caucasus. Because the symptoms caused by this minute moth had been previously attributed to a congeneric occurring in Europe (*S. plagicolella*), this discovery challenges previous records and highlights the need for accurate pest identification. (more)

Zaprionus tuberculatus

Authority: Malloch

Insecta, Diptera, Drosophilidae

■ New finding (BR)

Pesquisadores da Epagri identificam nova praga de frutíferas em Santa Catarina

Epagri researchers identify new pest of fruit trees in Santa Catarina

Revista Cultivar 04.Mar.2024

This article reports the first finding of *Zaprionus tuberculatus* (Diptera: Drosophilidae) in 2023 in the State of Santa Catarina (southern Brazil) associated with native fruit trees. This fly had already been detected in the neighbouring Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul, as well as in other Brazilian states in 2020. (more)

Nematodes

Heterodera zeae

Authority: Koshy, Swarup & Sethi

Chromadorea, Rhabditida, Heteroderidae

● New finding

First report of the maize cyst nematode *Heterodera zeae* in Sichuan Province of Southwest China

Plant Disease 18.Mar.2024

The maize cyst nematode *Heterodera zeae* has been reported for the first time Sichuan Province of Southwest China. Soil samples were collected from Luding County, Ganzi

Prefecture, Sichuan Province, with no major aboveground symptoms observed on maize. The presence of *H. zeae* was identified through morphological and molecular analyses. Pathogenicity testing was conducted and confirmed with the new cysts' morphological and molecular characteristics identical to the cysts from the original soil samples. (more)

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Candidatus Phytoplasma trifolii[11]

Authority: Hiruki & Wang

Mollicutes, Acholeplasmatales*, Acholeplasmataceae*

● New host plant

First report of a '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma trifolii'-related strain (16SrVI) associated with okra curled pod disease in Iran

New Disease Reports 15.Mar.2024

The article reports the identification of a '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma trifolii'-related strain (16SrVI) in okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) in Iran, thus extending the known natural host range of this phytoplasma. (more)

Hibiscus latent Fort Pierce virus and *Hibiscus latent Singapore virus*

Viruses, Virgaviridae, Tobamovirus

⚠ Negative PeMoScoring for both species

● First finding (CN) and new host plant

First report of *Hibiscus latent Singapore virus* and *Hibiscus latent Fort Pierce virus* infecting *Lantana camara* in China

Plant Disease 18.Mar.2024

Hibiscus latent Singapore virus and *Hibiscus latent Fort Pierce virus* both belong to the genus Tobamovirus and have been reported from hibiscus (*Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*). The article extends knowledge on the natural host range of these two viruses by reporting their discovery in the ornamental *Lantana camara* in China. (more)

Pineapple mealybug wilt-associated viruses 1, 2 and *3*

Viruses, Closteroviridae, Ampelovirus

● New finding (MY)

First report of the *Pineapple mealybug wilt-associated viruses 1, 2* and *3* causing pineapple mealybug wilt disease in East Malaysia, Borneo

New Disease Reports 15.Mar.2024

The article reports the finding of *Pineapple mealybug wilt-associated viruses 1, 2 and 3*, the potential causal agents of the Pineapple mealybug wilt disease in East Malaysia, Borneo, extending the known geographical distribution of these viruses. (more)

[11] Pest Categorisation published by EFSA in January 2020: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5929

Tamarillo fruit ring virus

Viruses, Potyviridae, Potyvirus

⚠ Negative PeMoScoring

- First finding (TZ, UG) and new host plant

First report of *Tamarillo fruit ring virus* in *Solanum* spp. in Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda

New Disease Reports 07.Mar.2024

The analysis of *Solanum* fruits of various species intercepted Heathrow Airport in 2021 indicate the presence of *Tamarillo fruit ring virus* (*Potyvirus* genus) in Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda thus extending the known geographic distribution and host range of this recently characterized and still very poorly known potyvirus. (more)

3.2. Regulated pests

3.2.1. Priority pests[12]

Bacteria

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

- Identification method

All-in-one *Xylella* detection and identification: a nanopore sequencing-compatible conventional PCR

Plant Pathology 15.Mar.2024

While multiple molecular detection assays have been developed for *Xylella fastidiosa*, there is a lack of molecular tools allowing the differentiation of the closely related pear pathogen, *X. taiwanensis*. The article reports the development and validation of a sensitive conventional PCR assay allowing the detection of all known species and subspecies within the *Xylella* genus and their differentiation through Sanger or nanopore sequencing of amplicons. (more)

Insects and mites

Agrilus planipennis
Authority: Fairmaire
Insecta, Coleoptera, Brupestidae

- Management

Emerald ash borer management and research: decades of damage and still expanding

Annual Reviews 2024

This article is a review of recently gained knowledge of the range expansion *Agrilus planipennis*; its ecological, economic, and social impacts; and past management efforts with their successes and limitations. It also highlights advances in biological control, mechanisms of *Fraxinus* spp. resistance, and new detection and management approaches under development. (more)

[12] 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

3.2.2. Quarantine pests[13,14] Annex II Part A

Fungi and oomycetes

Anisogramma anomala

Authority: (Peck) E. Müller

Sordariomycetes, Diaporthales, Gnomoniaceae

- New pest and resistance

Eastern filbert blight, hazelnut - USA: new strain

ProMED 21.Mar.2024

Oregon State University researchers have identified a novel strain of Eastern Filbert Blight, a fungal disease caused by *Anisogramma anomala*, which is known to affect hazelnut trees. This new strain is suspected to have emerged from an Oregon hazelnut orchard and possesses the capability to overcome Eastern filbert blight resistance present in commercial hazelnut varieties in the Northwest, USA. (more)

Gymnosporangium mori comb. nov.

Authority: (Barclay) Kasuya, T., Hosaka, K., Jing X. Ji, & Kakish

Pucciniomycotina, Pucciniales, Gymnosporangiaceae

- Taxonomy

Gymnosporangium mori comb. nov. (Pucciniales) for *Caeoma mori* (≡ *Aecidium mori*) inferred from phylogenetic evidence

Mycoscience 31.Mar.2024

The rust fungus *Caeoma mori* (syn. *Aecidium mori*), commonly known as mulberry rust was collected on shoots and leaves of *Morus alba* in the fields of Ibaraki and Saitama Prefectures, Japan in 2021 and 2023. Molecular phylogenetic analyses indicated that this rust fungus belongs to the clade containing the genus *Gymnosporangium*. As a result, a new combination, *G. mori*, is proposed for this species. Additionally, based on phylogenetic evidence, a new combination, *G. brucense*, is proposed for *Roestelia brucensis*. (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.

Insects and mites

Bactrocera carambolae

Authority: Drew & Hancock

Insecta, Diptera, Tephritidae

● First finding (GY)

New records of host plants of *Bactrocera carambolae* Drew & Hancock, 1994 (Diptera: Tephritidae) in Cooperative Republic of Guyana

EntomoBrasilis 19.Mar.2024

This article reports for the first time *Averrhoa bilimbi* (Oxalidaceae), *Malpighia emarginata* (Malpighiaceae), and *Psidium guajava* (Myrtaceae), as hosts of *Bactrocera carambolae* in Guyana. This is also the first finding of this fruit fly species in Guyana since its successful eradication in 2001. (more)

Scirtothrips dorsalis

Authority: Hood

Insecta, Thysanoptera, Thripidae

■ New finding (ES)

Scirtothrips dorsalis aparece en un invernadero de Almería

***Scirtothrips dorsalis* appears in a greenhouse in Almería**

Phytoma 01.Mar.2024

This article reports the first finding of *Scirtothrips dorsalis* in the province of Almería (Andalusia, Spain) in a nursery. The mite had already been reported from the Spanish mainland regions of Valencia in 2017, Murcia in 2023, and Andalusia in 2019, as well as on the island of Tenerife (Canary Islands) in 2016. (more)

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Candidatus Phytoplasma aurantifolia

Authority: Zreik, Bové & Garnier

Mollicutes, Acholeplasmatales, *Acholeplasmataceae*

● New host plant

First report of the association of a '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma aurantifolia'-related strain (16SrII-D) with little leaf and witches' broom symptoms in horse gram

New Disease Reports 12.Mar.2023

The article reports the identification of a '*Candidatus* Phytoplasma aurantifolia'-related strain (16SrII-D) in horse gram (*Macrotyloma uniflorum*, Fabaceae) in India, thus extending the known geographic distribution and natural host range of this phytoplasma. (more)

Sida leaf curl virus

Viruses, Geminiviridae, Begomovirus

- New host plant

First report of *Sida yellow vein Madurai virus* infecting Lisianthus (*Eustoma russellianum*)

Australasian Plant Disease Notes 08.Mar.2024

Sida leaf curl virus (syn. *Sida yellow vein Madurai virus*) is a begomovirus transmitted by the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* initially described from *Sida* weeds (Malvaceae). The article extends the known natural host range of this virus by reporting it discovery in lisianthus (*Eustoma russellianum*) in India. (more)

Tomato leaf curl Karnataka virus

Viruses, Geplafuvirales, Geminiviridae

- New host plant

Biological and molecular characterization of begomovirus and its DNA satellites associated with leaf curl disease of zinnia in India

Indian Phytopathology 04.Mar.2024

Tomato leaf curl Karnataka virus (ToLCKV) is a begomovirus transmitted by the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci*. The article extends the known natural host range of this virus by reporting it discovery associated with a range of alpha- and beta-satellites in symptomatic zinnia (*Zinnia elegans*) in India. (more)

3.2.3 EU emergency measures

Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus

Viruses, Virgaviridae, Tobamovirus

- First finding (IN)

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus associated with leaf mosaic, mottling and brown rugose patches on fruits of tomato in India

Australasian Plant Disease Notes 08.Mar.2024

The article reports the first finding of the emerging tobamovirus *Tomato brown rugose fruit virus* in symptomatic tomatoes in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra in India. (more)

3.3. Articles of general interest

Seasonal dominance of exotic ambrosia beetles compared to native species within deciduous and coniferous woodlots

Biological Invasions 09.Mar.2024

This article reports the extremely high dominance of exotic ambrosia beetles (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Scolytinae) compared to native species within deciduous and coniferous woodlots in Ohio (USA). Of the 145,882 total Scolytinae captured over the four years of study, only 622 were native beetles. Results also showed that exotic Scolytinae fly for a longer duration, which in conjunction with earlier flight phenology is at least partially responsible for their thriving populations compared to native species. These results provide insight into the invasion success of ambrosia beetles and will aid in predicting and monitoring key species. (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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