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# Plant Health Newsletter on HORIZON SCANNING

## March 2024

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)  
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# Introduction

Following a request from the European Commission<sup>1</sup>, 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<sup>2</sup> 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<sup>3</sup> 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<sup>4</sup> with the support of EFSA staff and contractors. The EPPO Global Database<sup>5</sup>, CABI Crop Protection Compendium<sup>6</sup> and previous EFSA outputs<sup>7</sup> 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<sup>8</sup>) with positive result, with a few details on their biology and reasons supporting the positive score.

<sup>1</sup> 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).

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> CABI, 2023. Crop Protection Compendium. Wallingford, UK: CAB International. [www.cabi.org/cpc](http://www.cabi.org/cpc)



















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






























<sup>8</sup> 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   Positive PeMo Scoring	 Forest plants  Fruit plants  Vegetables  Ornamental and flower plants  Cereals  Oil and fibre 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 and symptoms	EU distribution	Regulatory status	Topic
<a href="#"><u><b>Banana bunchy top virus</b></u></a>	 Banana	 Musaceae	  Dark-green streaks or dots on leaf, plants do not fruit or produce small deformed fruits	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plant
<a href="#"><u><b>Fusarium meridionale</b></u></a>	 Barley, maize, wheat		   Gibberella ear rot	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding
<a href="#"><u><b>Heterodera glycines</b></u></a>	 Pea, soybean, tomato, beetroot		   Stunting combined with chlorosis, yield reduction and in severe cases death	✓ IT	Not listed	New host plant
<a href="#"><u><b>Horse nettle virus A</b></u></a>	 Horsenettle		  Mottling and cupping of leaves, brown discoloration on leaves, petioles, and stems, and curling of leaves.	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plant
<a href="#"><u><b>Magnaporthe oryzae pathotype Triticum</b></u></a>	 Barley, oat, wheat		   Blast disease	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	Risk assessment
<a href="#"><u><b>Moroccan watermelon mosaic virus</b></u></a>	 Papaya, watermelon, pumpkin, black nightshade		    Mosaic patterns, chlorosis, dark blisters, leaf distortion, and fruit malformation, often causing crop failure.	✓ GR, ES, FR, IT, PT	Not listed	First finding

<p><b><u>Neoscytalidium dimidiatum</u></b></p>	 Citrus, fig, plum, walnut		 Prominent dark brown to black lesions on stems, gummosis, yield loss	<p>✗</p> Absent from the EU	Not listed	New host plant
<p><b><u>Ophiovirus lactucae</u></b></p> 	 Chili pepper, tomato, lettuce		 White mottling, leaf distortion, stunted growth, necrotic lesions, reduced vigor, and abnormal flowering.	<p>✓</p> BE, GR, NL	Not listed	First finding
<p><b><u>Ophiovirus ranunculi</u></b></p> 	 Pepper, ranunculus, anemone		 White mottling, leaf distortion, stunted growth, necrotic lesions, reduced vigor, and abnormal flowering.	<p>✓</p> DE, GR, SI, FR, IT	Not listed	First finding
<p><b><u>Phytophthora heteromorpha sp. nov.</u></b></p> 	 Black alder, white birch, acacia		 Dark brown inner bark lesions that spread in the root collar and necrotic lesions on the stem	<p>✓</p> IT	Not listed	New pest
<p><b><u>Spinach latent virus</u></b></p>	 Tomato and spinach		 Chlorotic ringspots and “zippering” on fruits	<p>✗</p> Absent from the EU	Not listed	First finding
<p><b><u>Strawberry polerovirus 1</u></b></p> 	 Strawberry		 Strawberry decline disease	<p>✓</p> CZ	Not listed	First finding  First finding



<b><u><i>Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid</i></u></b>	 Tomato, petunia		 Bunchy top, leaf curling	✓ CZ, FR, SI	Not listed	First finding and new host plant
<b><u><i>Xanthoorthe myrticola gen. et sp. nov.</i></u></b>	 Bloodwoods, eucalyptus		 Stem canker disease	✗ Absent from the EU	Not listed	New pest
<b><u><i>Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus</i></u></b>	 Watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber, pumpkin		 Sever yellowing symptoms	✓ GR, ES, IT (Sardegna), PT, CY	EPPO Alert List	First finding
<b><u><i>Fusarium oxysporum f. sp. cubense Tropical race 4</i></u></b>	 Banana and manila hemp		 Stunting, discoloration, yellowing, necrotic areas, reduced fruit size	✗ Absent from the EU	EPPO Alert List	Absence
<b><u><i>Orthotospovirus citrullomaculosi</i></u></b>	 Bell pepper, chili pepper, cucumber, melon, peanut, sea spinach, tomato, watermelon		 Mottled leaves, yellowing, stunting, deformed leaves, necrotic lesions	✗ Absent from the EU	EPPO Alert List	New host plant
<b><u><i>Phytophthora pluvialis</i></u></b>	 Mainly pine trees, western hemlock and Douglas fir.		 Lesions and resinous cankers on shoots, twigs, branches and stems. Dieback, dead natural regeneration	✓ BE	EPPO Alert List	New host plant
<b><u><i>Bactrocera dorsalis</i></u></b>	 Wide range of fruit and vegetable		 Oviposition punctures on fruits, internal feeding of larvae, premature fruit drop	✗ Under official control in FR and IT	Priority pest	Spread

<p><b><u>Xylella fastidiosa</u></b></p>	 Mainly almond, grapevine, olive, citrus		 Dieback / reduced growth / plant death. Asymptomatic in some species or cvars.	 Under official control in ES, FR, IT and PT	Priority pest	New finding  New finding
<p><b><u>Anisandrus maiche</u></b></p>	 Ash, aspen, elm, maple, oak		 Wood borer. Severe impact on trees that already weakened (opportunistic)	 IT	Quarantine pest	First finding
<p><b><u>Bactrocera tryoni</u></b></p>	 Citrus, grape, apple, avocado, tomato, peach, pepper		 Oviposition punctures on fruits, internal feeding of larvae, premature fruit drop	 Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Spread
<p><b><u>Diaphorina citri</u></b></p>	 Fruit and ornamental species	 Rutaceae	 Vector of HLB disease	 Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Risk assessment
<p><b><u>Lycorma delicatula</u></b></p>	 Many host plants from different families		 Nymphs and adults feeding on phloem results in oozing wounds on the trunk and wilting and branch dieback	 Absent from the EU	Quarantine pest	Risk assessment
<p><b><u>Xylosandrus compactus</u></b></p>	 Chestnut, Acer, fig, oak, mango, avocado		 Twig borer causing rapid death or breakage, hindering fruiting and tree replacement	 GR, ES, FR, IT, MT	Quarantine pest	First finding

<p><b><u>Pomacea canaliculata</u></b></p>	 Mainly rice		External damage (feeding) to the whole plant: leaves, stems, vegetative organs	 Absent from the EU	Emergency measures	Control measure
<p><b><u>Spodoptera ornithogalli</u></b></p>	 Allium, bell pepper, cucurbits, cotton, sweet potato, cassava, rice, beans, tomato, potato, maize		 Damage plants, skeletonizing leaves and consuming foliage, fruits, and flowers,	 Absent from the EU	Emergency measures	New host plant

## 2. Main issues of March 2024

### *Phytophthora heteromorpha* sp. nov.

#### Positive PeMoScoring

*Phytophthora heteromorpha* sp. nov. is an oomycete not listed in any EU legal acts or EPPO lists. The newsletter reports one scientific article about this newly described pathogen.

The article reported in this newsletter describes a new species among *Phytophthora* genus and its pathogenicity was tested in grey alder, exhibiting symptoms consistent with field observations.

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

### *Phytophthora pluvialis*

*Phytophthora pluvialis* is an oomycete listed in the EPPO Alert List. The newsletter reports one scientific article about this pathogen.

The article reported in this newsletter describes a new host plant of *P. pluvialis* detected in UK, the Japanese larch (*Larix kaempferi*). This emerging pathogen has been also reported in the EU in Belgium.

All the articles on *P. pluvialis* 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 two articles about this pathogen.

The media articles selected report two very significant new findings for the epidemiology of the disease in EU. The first article reports *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* ST53 in Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain) from symptomatic *Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea* var. *sylvestris*. The second article outlines the new finding of *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* ST1 in Puglia (Italy).

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

###### *Fusarium meridionale*

Authority: Aoki, Kistler, Geiser & O'Donnell  
Sordariomycetes, Hypocreales, Nectriaceae

- First finding (PH)

[First report of \*Fusarium meridionale\* causing ear rot of maize in the Philippines](#)

##### **New Disease Reports 29.Feb.2024**

The fungus *Fusarium meridionale* is reported for the first time as the causative agent of ear rot in maize in the Philippines. *F. meridionale* is a member of the *F. graminearum* species complex, which produces trichothecene mycotoxins, posing potential health risks also to humans and animals. The fungus was first isolated after a maize crop displayed typical symptoms of *Gibberella* ear rot of maize. The identity of *F. meridionale* was confirmed through DNA sequencing and Koch's postulates were fulfilled. ([more](#))

###### *Magnaporthe oryzae* pathotype *Triticum*

Authority: B.C. Couch and L.M. Kohn  
Sordariomycetes, Magnaporthales, Pyriculariaceae

- Risk assessment

[Production vulnerability to wheat blast disease under climate change](#)

##### **Nature Climate Change 01.Feb.2024**

Wheat blast is a devastating disease caused by the fungal pathogen *Magnaporthe oryzae* pathotype *Triticum* that has spread to both neighbouring and distant countries following its emergence in Brazil in the 1980s. In the article a wheat crop simulation model was coupled with a newly developed wheat blast model to provide quantitative global estimates of wheat blast vulnerability under current and future climates. The model shows that European regions closer to the Mediterranean may develop a climate propitious to wheat blast infection, for example, Italy and some parts of southern France and Spain but suggest only a potential for a limited production loss. ([more](#))

## *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum*<sup>9</sup>

Authority: (Penzig) Crous & Slippers

Dothideomycetes, Botryosphaerales, Botryosphaeriaceae

- New host plant

[First report of \*Neoscytalidium dimidiatum\* causing blight of \*Zea mays\* in Turkey](#)

**Journal of Plant Pathology 02.Feb.2024**

The fungus *Neoscytalidium dimidiatum* has been reported for the first time as the causative agent of blight on *Zea mays* (maize). In August 2022, a maize field in Şeyhçoban district, Şanlıurfa, Turkey, exhibited symptoms of stem and leaf blight, wilting, and root rot, with a 3 % disease incidence. The pathogen responsible was identified as *N. dimidiatum* based on morphological analysis and confirmed through sequencing of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) and translation elongation factor 1- $\alpha$  gene (EF1- $\alpha$ ) regions. Pathogenicity testing confirmed that *N. dimidiatum* induced blight symptoms on inoculated maize plants, with the fungus successfully reisolated and identified from the inoculated lesions. ([more](#))

## *Phytophthora heteromorpha* sp. nov.

Authority: Bregant C, Rossetto G, Sasso N, Montecchio L, Maddau L, Linaldeddu BT

Oomycetes, Peronosporales, Peronosporaceae

- ⚠ Positive PeMoScoring

- New pest

[Diversity and distribution of \*Phytophthora\* species across different types of riparian vegetation in Italy with the description of \*Phytophthora heteromorpha\* sp. nov.](#)

**International Journal of Systematic and Evolutionary Microbiology 26.Feb.2024**

A study conducted from November 2019 to March 2023 in 46 riparian ecosystems across the Mediterranean to Alpine regions identified 20 known *Phytophthora* species belonging to seven phylogenetic clades. In addition, a new species, *Phytophthora heteromorpha* sp. nov., is described based on isolates obtained from *Alnus incana* (grey alder) and *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine). This new species demonstrated pathogenicity on grey alder, exhibiting symptoms consistent with field observations. ([more](#))

## *Xanthoportha myrticola* gen. et sp. nov.

Authority: Suzuki, H., Marincowitz, S., Roux, J., Paap, T., Wingfield, B.D. & Wingfield, M.J.

Sordariomycetes, Diaporthales, Cryphonectriaceae

- New pest

[A new genus and species of Cryphonectriaceae causing stem cankers on plantation eucalypts in South Africa](#)

**Plant Pathology 25.Feb.2024**

The article reports the characterization of a new fungus from cankers on species of *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* in KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa). It represents a new species and a new genus of Cryphonectriaceae, is pathogenic on *Eucalyptus grandis* and hybrids as well as *Corymbia henryi* and has been named *Xanthoportha myrticola* gen. et sp. nov. ([more](#))

<sup>9</sup> Pest Categorisation published by EFSA in March 2023: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/8001>

## Nematodes

### *Heterodera glycines*

Authority: Ichinohe

Chromatodea, Rhabditida, Heteroderidae

- New host plant

[Identification and biological characterization of a new cyst nematode, \*Heterodera glycines\* sbsp.n. \*tabacum\*, parasitizing tobacco in China](#)

**Plant Disease 29.Feb.2024**

This article reports the identification of new subspecies of *Heterodera glycines* in Henan province, China, namely *H. glycines* sbsp. n. *tabacum*, a cyst nematode found in tobacco roots and in rhizosphere soil. Differences in rDNA-ITS and mtDNA-COI between *H. glycines* and *H. glycines tabacum* are reported and are the base for the delimitation of this new subspecies. ([more](#))

## Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

### *Banana bunchy top virus*

Viruses, Nanoviridae, Babuvirus

- New host plant

[First report of \*Banana bunchy top virus\* infecting \*Colocasia esculenta\* \(L.\) Schott, from India](#)

**Journal of Plant Pathology 03.Feb.2024**

*Banana bunchy top virus* (BBTV) is the most detrimental virus of banana worldwide but few other natural hosts are known for it. The article describes its identification in *Caulocasia esculenta* (Taro) in India, thus extending BBTV known natural host range. ([more](#))

### *Horse nettle virus A*

Viruses, Secoviridae, Nepovirus

- New host plant

[First report of the \*Horse nettle virus\* infecting tomato \(\*Solanum lycopersicum\* L.\) in the United States](#)

**Plant Disease 29.Feb.2024**

The Secovirus *Horse nettle virus A* was first described in 2023 in Maryland (USA) from the *Solanum carolinense* weed. The article reports its finding in symptomatic cultivated tomatoes in Oklahoma (USA), thus extending the natural host range and the geographic distribution of this very poorly known virus. ([more](#))

## *Moroccan watermelon mosaic virus*

*Viruses, Potyviridae, Potyvirus*

- First finding (BR)

[First report of \*Moroccan watermelon mosaic virus\* in pumpkin plants in Brazil](#)

**Plant Disease 12.Feb.2024**

*Moroccan watermelon mosaic virus* is an aphid-borne potyvirus pathogenic to cucurbit crops that has been reported from Africa and a few EU countries. The article reports its first identification in South America, in Brazilian pumpkin plants. ([more](#))

## *Ophiovirus lactucae* and *Ophiovirus ranunculi*

*Viruses, Aspiviridae, Ophiovirus*

 Negative PeMoScoring for both species

- First finding (GR)

[First report of \*Ranunculus white mottle virus\* and \*Lettuce ring necrosis virus\* in pepper in Greece](#)

**Journal of Plant Pathology 19.Feb.2024**

*Ophiovirus lactucae* (syn. *Lettuce ring necrosis virus*) and *O. ranunculi* (syn. *Ranunculus white mottle virus*) are two relatively poorly known viruses transmitted by soil chytrids. They have been reported naturally infecting a few host plants including pepper. The article reports their discovery in pepper plants in Greece, thus extending their geographical distribution. ([more](#))

## *Spinach latent virus*

*Viruses, Bromoviridae, Ilarvirus*

- First finding (CA)

[First detection and genomic characterisation of \*Spinach latent virus\* in tomato in Canada](#)


**New Disease Reports 15.Feb.2024**

*Spinach latent virus* (SpLV; genus Ilarvirus) was initially described from spinach but has more recently been reported from tomato crops in several countries. The article describes its finding in symptomatic tomatoes in Canada, extending information on its geographic distribution. ([more](#))



## *Strawberry polerovirus 1*<sup>10</sup>

Viruses, Luteoviridae, Polerovirus

 Negative PeMoScoring

- First finding (IT)

[First report of \*Strawberry polerovirus 1\* in strawberry in Italy](#)

**Plant Disease 20.Feb.2024**

*Strawberry polerovirus 1* has been reported for the first time in strawberries in Sicily (Italy). "Etna ecotype" strawberry field, virus-like symptoms were observed in approximately 50 % of the plants. Symptoms included severe dwarfing, leaf cupping and chlorotic spotting which lead to decline of infected plants. ([more](#))

- First finding (IR)

[First report of \*Strawberry polerovirus 1\* infecting strawberry in Iran](#)

**Journal of Plant Pathology 26.Feb.2024**

*Strawberry polerovirus 1* was first described in Canada in 2015 and suspected to be involved in a disease called strawberry decline. Although this association with disease remains uncertain, it has been reported from a few other countries including the USA, Argentina, Nepal and the Czech Republic. The article reports its discovery in strawberry in Iran. ([more](#))

## *Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid*<sup>11</sup>

Viruses, Pospiviroidae, Pospiviroid

- First finding (CN) and new host plant

[First report of \*Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid\* in \*Dahlia\* in China](#)

**Plant Disease 12.Feb.2024**

*Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid* (TCDVd, genus *Pospiviroid*) has been reported naturally infecting tomato, eggplant, and a few ornamental species. The article reports its first identification in *Dahlia* in China, extending information on the natural host range of TCDVd. ([more](#))

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<sup>10</sup> Pest Categorisation published by EFSA in June 2019: <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5766>

<sup>11</sup> Pest Risk Assessment published in November 2023 on EPPO Platform on PRAs: [Express-PRA zu \*Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid\* – Beanstandung](#)

## 3.1.2 EPPO lists

### Fungi and oomycetes

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

Authority: (E.F.Smith) Snyder & Hansen  
Sordariomycetes, Hypocreales, Nectriaceae

■ Absence

[El mal de Panamá de Tenerife no está causado por la raza Tropical 4](#)

**Panama Disease in Tenerife it is not caused by the subspecies Tropical 4**

**Phytoma 01.Feb.2024**

Panama disease affecting banana plantations on Tenerife is not caused by the subspecies Tropical race 4 of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *ubense*, the most aggressive, but by the subspecies Subtropical race 4. ([more](#))

#### *Phytophthora pluvialis*

Authority: Reeser, Sutton & E. Hansen  
Oomycetes, Peronosporales, Peronosporaceae

● New host plant

[First report of \*Phytophthora pluvialis\* causing cankers on Japanese larch in the United Kingdom](#)

**New Disease Reports 01.Feb.2024**

The oomycete *Phytophthora pluvialis* is reported for the first time causing cankers on *Larix kaempferi* (Japanese larch). In England in 2022, surveys observed defoliation, needle blight, and cankers on a group of Japanese larch trees. The isolation and molecular confirmation of *P. pluvialis* was followed by the fulfilment of Koch's postulates. ([more](#))

### Viruses, viroids and phytoplasmas

#### *Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus*

Viruses, *Closteroviridae*, *Crinivirus*

● First finding (JM)

[First report of \*Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus\* infecting cucurbit crops in Jamaica](#)

**Plant Disease 27.Feb.2024**

*Cucurbit yellow stunting disorder virus* (CYSDV) is a whitefly-transmitted *Closteroviridae* member affecting a range of cucurbit crops. The report shows its presence in Jamaica, extending its known geographical distribution to the Caribbean. ([more](#))

## *Orthospovirus citrullomaculosi*

*Viruses, Tospoviridae, Orthospovirus*

- New host plant

[Occurrence of \*Watermelon silver mottle virus\* in peanut in China](#)

**Plant Disease 12.Feb.2024**

*Orthospovirus citrullomaculosi* (syn. *Watermelon silver mottle virus*) is transmitted by thrips and has been reported in a variety of Solanaceae and Cucurbitaceae crops. This article extends the natural host range of the virus by reporting its detection in peanut in China. ([more](#))

## 3.2. Regulated pests

### 3.2.1. Priority pests<sup>12</sup>

#### Bacteria

##### *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa*

Authority: Schaad, Postnikova, Lacy, Fatmic & Chang  
Gammaproteobacteria, Lysobacterales, *Lysobacteraceae*

■ New finding (IT)

[Individuazione di focolai di \*Xylella fastidiosa\* sottospecie \*fastidiosa\* in agro di Triggiano \(BA\)](#)

**Isolation of *Xylella fastidiosa* subspecies *fastidiosa* in Triggiano (BA)**

**Emergenza *Xylella* 21.Feb.2024**

This official communicate reports the first finding of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *fastidiosa* ST1 in the region of Puglia (Italy). The bacterium was isolated from six almond trees and a new demarcated area has been defined in order to eradicate it. ([more](#))

##### *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca*

Authority: Schaad, Postnikova, Lacy, Fatmic & Chang  
Gammaproteobacteria, Lysobacterales, *Lysobacteraceae*

■ New finding (ES)

[Agricultura elabora un nuevo Plan de Contención de la 'Xylella' al detectar por primera vez la subespecie 'Pauca ST53' en Mallorca](#)

**The Agriculture Government prepares a new Containment Plan for 'Xylella' after detecting for the first time the subspecies 'Pauca ST53' in Mallorca**

**Consejería de Agricultura, Pesca y Medio Natural 01.Feb.2024**

The Government of the Balearic Islands informed that *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* ST53 has been detected in Mallorca (Balearic Islands, Spain). A new contingency plan has been prepared to tackle with this new subspecies of the bacterium isolated from wild olive trees ([more](#))

<sup>12</sup> 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

## Insects and mites

### *Bactrocera dorsalis*

Authority: (Hendel)

Insecta, Diptera, Tephritidae

#### ● Spread

[A study on fruit fly host range reveals the low infestation rate of \*Bactrocera dorsalis\* \(Tephritidae\) in Mayotte](#)

#### **Agricultural and Forest Entomology 06.Feb.2024**

The oriental fruit fly (*Bactrocera dorsalis*) was detected in 2007 in Mayotte. Comparison of two field campaigns in 2012 to 2014 and 2019 to 2021, show a low occurrence of *B. dorsalis*, with only seven host plant species identified out of a total of 84 known hosts worldwide coupled with a low Infestation rate. Among different hypotheses explaining these results, *B. dorsalis* could have not yet entered the expansion stage of its biological invasion and its lag period could be longer than expected. ([more](#))

## 3.2.2. Quarantine pests<sup>13,14</sup>

### Annex II Part A

#### Insects and mites

##### *Anisandrus maiche* and *Xylosandrus compactus*

Authority: Stark | (Eichhoff)

Insecta, Coleoptera, Curculionidae

- First finding (SI)

[First record of non-native \*Xylosandrus compactus\* and \*Anisandrus maiche\* \(Coleoptera: Curculionidae, Scolytinae\) in Slovenia](#)

##### **Zootaxa 21.Feb.2024**

During the national survey of quarantine species in 2023, two new non-native scolytinae feeding on broad-leaf plant species, *Anisandrus maiche* (Stark) and *Xylosandrus compactus* (Eichhoff), were recorded in Slovenia. *A. maiche*, which had been previously reported from northern Italy, was recorded in three locations in the eastern part of Slovenia, with a total of 386 individuals. Three individuals of *X. compactus*, which is known to occur in France, Greece, Italy, Malta, and Spain, were collected in one location near the port of Koper. ([more](#))

##### *Bactrocera tryoni*

Authority: (Froggatt)

Insecta, Diptera, Tephritidae

- Spread

[An analysis of fruit carried into a quarantine area and an evaluation of infestation rate by Queensland fruit fly \*Bactrocera tryoni\* \(Froggatt\) \(Diptera: Tephritidae\)](#)

##### **Crop Protection 07.Feb.2024**

The risk of new establishments of *Bactrocera tryoni* in pest-free areas is linked to the fruit carried by road travellers. This article reports the results of 989 fruit consignments seized on three main entry roads into the Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone and assessed for infestation. 1.01 % of consignments were infested with tephritids. However, only 0.2 % were infested with sufficient *B. tryoni* to potentially result in a new establishment. ([more](#))

<sup>13</sup> 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

<sup>14</sup> 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.

*Diaphorina citri*

Authority: Kuwayama

Insecta, Hemiptera, Psyllidae

- Risk assessment

[Modelling the potential distribution of the Asian citrus psyllid \*Diaphorina citri\* \(Hemiptera: Liviidae\) using CLIMEX](#)

**International Journal of Tropical Insect Science 26.Feb.2024**

This article reports potential suitable areas for establishment of *Diaphorina citri* (one of the known vectors of huanglongbing) worldwide. The modelling combined their climatic requirements, temperature, and humidity in CLIMEX. The model's performance was high, and it can be utilized for biosecurity risk assessment, as only 2.82 % of the 496 known occurrence spots were located in areas deemed unsuitable by the model's fit. The potential habitat suitability for *D. citri* included all citrus-growing areas of the EU, which were categorised as either highly or moderately suitable for establishment. ([more](#))

*Lycorma delicatula*

Authority: (White)

Insecta, Hemiptera, Fulgoridae

- Risk assessment

[Effects of temperature on the survival of spotted lanternfly active life stages when held without food](#)

**Agricultural and Forest Entomology 15.Feb.2024**

The spotted lanternfly, *Lycorma delicatula* is an invasive Southeast Asian planthopper recently introduced into the eastern United States spreading along human transportation corridors by 'hitch-hiking' on vehicles and cargo. This paper reports the survival time at different temperatures of the different life stages of this insect without food and water. Without food, adults (the most susceptible life stage to these conditions) are predicted to be dead in less than a week over the temperature range evaluated (10-30 °C). However, first instars, which were the most robust stage, survived up to one and two weeks at 15 and 10 °C. This suggests that any study assessing the risk of survival of *L. delicatula* during trade should focus on first instars. ([more](#))

### 3.1.3 EU emergency measures

#### *Pomacea canaliculata*

Authority: (Lamarck)

Gastropoda, Architaenioglossa, Ampullariidae

- Control measure

[Unmanned aerial vehicle-based techniques for monitoring and prevention of invasive apple snails \(\*Pomacea canaliculata\*\) in rice paddy fields](#)

**MDPI Agriculture 13.Feb.2024**

The impact of invasive apple snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*) on young rice seedlings has garnered global attention. The preventative application of insecticide, particularly in areas with young rice seedlings and water depths exceeding 4 cm, has proven effective in mitigating this damage. In line with this recommendation, this study investigates the efficacy of site-specific drone-based insecticide applications to mitigate snail damage in rice paddies. The results demonstrated reductions in both the rates of rice damage and chemical usage following site-specific drone applications compared with the control fields. [\(more\)](#)

#### *Spodoptera ornithogalli*

Authority: (Guenée)

Insecta, Lepidoptera, Noctuidae

- New host plant

[Pecan, \*Carya illinoensis\*, a New Host Report of Yellowstriped Armyworm, \*Spodoptera ornithogalli\* \(Guenée\) \(Lepidoptera: Noctuidae\) in the Southeastern US](#)

**MDPI Horticulturae 13.Feb.2024**

*Spodoptera ornithogalli* is a polyphagous pest that infests various crops, including cotton, cabbage, corn, blackberry, grape, etc. This study documents the finding of egg clusters, larvae, and adults of *S. ornithogalli* in pecan orchards in Georgia. This is a new host for this pest. [\(more\)](#)



### 3.3. Articles of general interest

[Review of host use and host reproduction number for New World fruit flies \(Diptera: Tephritidae\) to optimise surveillance, management and trade](#)

**International Journal of Tropical Insect Science 13.Feb.2024**

Many exotic fruit fly species are detected each year in different commodities traded. This review focuses on the utility of the Host Reproduction Number (HRN) of tephritids to optimise risk management and trade. ([more](#))

Product created using Text and Data Mining based on Europe Media Monitoring (EMM) 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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