

Forest Health News

July 2022



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Welcome to Forest Health News. Here you will find the latest news and information relating to forest and tree health issues and developments internationally at European level and nationally in order to create awareness and provide stakeholders with the very latest information. Here we make use of international and national information and expertise including the Department's own Pest Risk Analysis team.

OUTBREAKS & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Toumeyella parvicornis

Toumeyella parvicornis known as Pine tortoise scale is a soft scale insect from North America which has recently established in some regions in Italy and France. It develops on pine (*Pinus spp.*), feeding on the needles and twigs, especially on new growth. Infestations can cause shoot dieback. At high infestation levels mortality can occur, though this is generally only associated with younger trees. Other visual symptoms include a powdery white coating visible on pine branches and a black sooty coating (fungal mould growing on honey dew secreted by females) covering areas below infestations.

In 2014, its presence was first recorded in Italy, infesting *Pinus pinea* in urban environments and it has since spread. In southern France, *T. parvicornis* was reported for the first time in 2021 near Saint Tropez. Although it is not yet regulated at an EU level, pine tortoise scale has been added to the [EPPO alert list](#) as it could be a threat to pine trees in urban environments and possibly in forests in the EPPO region and has been assessed by [EFSA](#) as meeting the criteria to be classified as a European Union quarantine pest.



Pine tortoise scale. © Lacy L. Hyche, Auburn University, Bugwood.org



Pinus pinea bark covered in sooty mould growing on honeydew excreted by *Toumeyella parvicornis*, Italy © C. Malumphy



Xylotrechus chinensis (XYLOCH)

Example of Adult *Xylotrechus chinensis* detected in the region of Heraklion (Kriti, Greece). Photo credit: Leivadara et al. 2018

Other news and developments

- Further controls have been introduced to prevent the further spread of *Ips typographus* in Great Britain, to cover parts of Hampshire restricting the movement of restricted material. Further information is available [here](#).
- Great Britain have introduced emergency legislation which amends import requirements for *Cedrus* and *Pinus* in response to interceptions of Pine Processionary Moth (PPM). Further details are [here](#). An [addendum](#) to the PRA (Pest Risk Analysis) giving further details about the risk posed by PPM is available.
- Further reports of Tiger longicorn beetle *Xylotrechus chinensis* in Bordeaux (France). A delimiting survey is going to be implemented by the NPPO.
- One notable outbreak was the finding of the Annex IIA pest *Draeculacephala robinsoni* (vector of *Xylella fastidiosa*) in France. The pest was found at multiple sites in a scientific survey, the regional phytosanitary services are working in order to officially confirm this detection. An Irish PRA has been completed on this pest.
- Notable harmful organisms detected of non-compliant ISPM 15 WPM (Wood Packaging Material) include *Apriona germari* which is now regulated as Union quarantine pests, as part of the new amendment of the Annexes of 2019/2072. While further detail provided by Latvia reveal the live *Cerambycidae* detected on WPM from Belarus (CHEDPP.LV.2022.0024823) were *Tetropium sp.*

More Information can be found here: www.eppo.int

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OUTBREAKS & RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

***Phytophthora pluvialis*— Update**

As described in the previous newsletter, *Phytophthora pluvialis* has been found in the UK (September 2021). Demarcated areas have been established where the pathogen has been found. The movement of any wood, isolated bark and trees (including live trees, felled or fallen trees, fruit, seeds, leaves or foliage) of the genus *Tsuga*, *Pseudotsuga*, *Pinus* and *Notholithocarpus*, originating within the demarcated area is prohibited. There is also an additional restriction on the felling of susceptible material within the demarcated areas, unless the Forestry Commission has been notified in advance.

In Ireland, surveys have been carried out in Douglas fir and western hemlock plantations throughout the country for the presence of this harmful organism. To date, *Phytophthora pluvialis* has not been detected in Ireland.



P. pluvialis damage on mature western hemlock © Forestry Commission

UK: Biosecurity of plants used in tree planting programmes

From June 2022 a new initiative will ensure that plant health management standards are in place for nurseries supplying trees for the England Woodland Creation Offer and Tree Health Pilot restocking grants. For more information see [here](#).



Clean Your Boots!

The threat to forest health is quickly emerging as an issue of great concern. Brought about by the increased movement of goods internationally and climate change, the risk of introducing non-native, invasive species has never been greater. Practising good biosecurity habits including simple actions such as cleaning your boots in moving from site to site will help in reducing the spread of harmful forest pests and pathogens and 'Protect Our Forest Health'. More information is available [here](#).

REMINDER

To be compliant with Regulation (EU) 2019/827, DAFM has introduced a method of assessing the (Forest health) competence of Registered Professional Operators to become Authorised Operators to issue Plant Passports. The new authorisation process includes an online assessment, and an on-site inspection. All registered professional (Forestry) Operators must become authorised as set-out above in order to issue Plant Passports.

The Technical Guidance document and link to the assessment are available [here](#).



Plant Passport – PZ

DENCM1 IPSXAM

IPXSCE IPSXDU

IPXSXE IPSXTY

A *Pinopsida*

B IE – xxx

C 22052001

D IE



PUBLICATIONS, REPORTS & EVENTS OF INTEREST

Recent publications:

- A new disease report for the fungus *Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi* in Ireland has been published, [Link](#). The article from DAFM, outlines a pathogenicity trial and analysis undertaken following an initial report of cankers on sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*).
- Phytophthora pluvialis* has been added to the EPPO Alert List to raise awareness of other EPPO countries [Link](#). Additionally, in England this month further extensions to the existing demarcated area in Devon and Cornwall and new demarcated areas in Surrey, and Gloucestershire have been announced [Link](#).

PAST EVENTS Bord Bia BLOOM 2022

Minister of State Pippa Hackett, Dr Deirdre Fay DAFM together with [Beastie the Bug](#) at the Department's "Don't Risk It" themed stand at this year's Bord Bia Bloom Festival to explain the potential risk of moving plants and their associated pests during international travel.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Ploughing Championships 2022 20-22 September

Visit the Department of Agriculture "Don't Risk It" stand at this year's Ploughing Championships to learn about the risks of moving plants and their associated pests.



TRADER INFORMATION

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2021/2285 of 14 December 2021

Amongst other implications arising from Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2285 of 14 December 2021, are the following:

Status of *Phytophthora ramorum* (EU isolates) Werres, De Cock & Man in 't Veld

Based on the methodology developed by EPPO, it has been concluded that *Phytophthora ramorum* (EU isolates) Werres, De Cock & Man in 't Veld fulfils the criteria for RNQPs as set out in Section 4 of Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. Please note only *Phytophthora ramorum* (EU isolates) have ever been found in Ireland.

Import of oak (*Quercus* L.) from Canada and the United Kingdom (Great Britain)

The importation of oak (*Quercus* L.) (and other species) which are hosts of *Phytophthora ramorum* (non-EU isolates) Werres, De Cock & Man in 't Veld from Canada and the United Kingdom (excluding Northern Ireland) as well as the United States and Vietnam is now subject to control (Ref. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/2285 Annex VII point 111).

For the purposes of classification "conifers (*Pinales*)" are now reclassified to "conifers (*Pinopsida*)"

For more information on these revisions, see information here: [Link](#)