EPPO-NEPPO

Workshop on *Pest Reporting*

PARTICIPANT BOOKLET



10–12 November 2026

Le Paradis Palace 4* · Hammamet, Tunisia

Reporting obligations · Pest status · Procedures and tools · International use of reports

HAMMAMET, 10–12 NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome to Hammamet

This workshop is designed to strengthen how our regions detect, confirm and share information on plant pests.

Welcome on behalf of EPPO and NEPPO. National Plant Protection Organizations from both regions will share experience on reporting obligations, the determination of pest status and the tools that make timely, reliable reporting possible. This booklet brings together the agenda, exercises, the field trip, abstracts and practical information.

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01 Organising Committee

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORKSHOP

EPPO

European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization

Muriel Suffert

EPPO

Muriel SUFFERT is the Information Manager at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, where she has worked for over 23 years. As the Information Manager, she leads the Information Services team and is repsonsible for the maintenance of the EPPO Global Database, horizon scanning on regulated and emerging plant pests and managing the EPPO Panel on Plant Protection Information. Before working in Information Services, she was a Senior Scientific Officer at EPPO responsible for the management of Expert Working Groups, several Panels and helped in the development of the PP1 Database and the Platform of PRAs.

Samuel Warner

EPPO

Samuel WARNER is a Scientific Officer at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization working on Information Services. His work predominantly focusses on horizon scanning for emerging and regulated plant pests, updating the EPPO Global Database, management of the EPPO Platform on PRAs and EPPO Platform on Communication Material and writing articles for the EPPO Reporting Service. He previously worked in the UK government and has a PhD in plant biology.

NEPPO

Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization

Mr. Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa

NEPPO

Dr. BEN JAMÂA is a full Professor in plant protection (Entomology) with 35 years of experience in plant health, IPS, IPM. He has published more than 150 scientific papers and book chapters. Since 2023, Dr. BEN JAMÂA is the Executive Director of NEPPO.

Ms. Olfa Ezzine

NEPPO

Dr. Olfa EZZINE is an Associate Professor in plant protection (entomology) with more than 20 years of experience in bio-ecology, IPS, population dynamics of pests (Lepidoptera). Dr. EZZINE has published 85 scientific papers, a chapter of a collective book and books. Since 2024, Dr. EZZINE is the scientific coordinator of NEPPO.

Mr. Yassir Bourhdadi

NEPPO

Holder of a Master's degree in Audit and Management Control, Mr. Yassir BOURHDADI has a strong understanding of finance and administrative management. Currently he serves as the Administrative Manager at NEPPO.

02 Agenda

FULL PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

08:30 **Registration**

09:00 **Opening session**
M. H. Ben Jamâa (NEPPO) and the Chair of the NEPPO Governing Council
M. Suffert (EPPO) · C. Beltran Montoya (IPPC) · H. Hechlef, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Tunisia (MARHP) · Round table of participants

Session 1 · Reporting obligations
Chair: EPPO

09:30 **Introducing and refreshing NROs: a practical reflection exercise**
Camilo Beltran Montoya · IPPC

10:10 **Reporting obligations to EPPO**
Muriel Suffert · EPPO

10:20 **Discussion: reporting regulated pests vs emerging pests**

11:00 *Coffee break and group photo*

11:30 **Exercise 1 · Working groups**
Why, what, how and to whom to report · Outputs presented by rapporteurs at 12:30

13:00 *Lunch*

Session 2 · Determination of pest status and ISPM 8
Chair: NPPO Tunisia

14:00 **Presentation of ISPMs 8 and 17**
Samuel Warner · EPPO

14:20 **Pest reporting and status management**
Lily Kadirova · United Kingdom

14:40 **Report on Citrus Black Spot in Tunisia and monitoring**
Lassaad Medhioub · Tunisia

15:00 **Pest reporting in the Czech Republic**
Kateřina Jégrová · Czech Republic

15:20 **Reporting and eradication of RPW in Mauritania**
Sabrine Meridja · FAO-SNE Tunisia

15:40 **Discussion**

16:05 *Coffee break*

16:30 **Exercise 2 · Determination of pest status: scenarios**
Outputs presented by rapporteurs at 17:30

02 Agenda

FULL PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

AM **Technical visit · citrus orchard**
Departure from the hotel · Arrival at the citrus orchard

13:00 *Lunch at the hotel*

Session 3 · Pest reporting procedures and tools
Chair: NEPPO

14:00 **The Saudi Arabia tools for pest reporting**
Talal Al Mutairi · Saudi Arabia

14:15 **Pest reporting of outbreaks and findings of pests in the Netherlands**
Monique Gerrits-Verdel · Netherlands

14:30 **The Egyptian experience on pest reporting: Fall Armyworm case study**
Islam Aboelela · Egypt, and Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa · NEPPO

14:45 **Exercise 3 · Working groups**
Available procedures and tools, establishing pest reporting procedures, difficulties · Outputs presented at 15:00

15:30 *Coffee break*

Session 4 · How pest reports are used internationally
Chair: IPPC

16:00 **Pest reporting in the NENA region**
Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa · NEPPO

16:15 **How does EPPO use pest reporting information?**
Muriel Suffert · EPPO

16:30 **How does the IPPC use pest reporting information?**
Camilo Beltran Montoya · IPPC

16:45 **Pest reporting in the EU (remote)**
P. Roquiny · European Commission

17:00 **Discussion**

02 Agenda

FULL PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER

Session 5 · First reports of pests by scientists
Exchanges of experiences by NPPOs and improving communication with scientists
Chair: NEPPO

09:00 **The contribution of academic surveillance to pest reporting: three invasive insect case studies from ornamental plants in Algeria**
Zine Eddine Labdaoui · Algeria

09:15 **First record of *Donus intermedius* damaging *lemon balm* (Melissa officinalis) in South Tyrol, Italy**
Yazmid Reyes Dominguez · Italy

09:30 **Examples of issues with pest reports by scientists**
Procedure to check data with NPPOs · Why EPPO uses non-official data · EPPO

09:45 **Discussion**

10:15 *Coffee break*

Final discussions and recommendations
Chair: EPPO · NEPPO · IPPC

10:45 **Group discussion: benefits and challenges of pest reporting**

11:15 **Reporting to the full group**

Closing session
Chair: NEPPO · EPPO · IPPC · NPPO Tunisia

11:45 **Closing of the workshop and certificates of attendance**
End at 12:30

03 About the workshop

BACKGROUND

> **Working together to enhance plant health preparedness against transboundary pests.**
>
> EPPO and NEPPO, Regional Plant Protection Organizations

As part of their collaborative work as Regional Plant Protection Organizations (RPPOs), the EPPO and NEPPO Secretariats know the importance of working together to strengthen plant health preparedness against transboundary pests.

A growing collaboration

MAY 2025

Contingency exercise workshop on *Xylella fastidiosa*

Highlighted the importance of collaboration between NPPOs and RPPOs, and of emergency plans for the most harmful pests in the region.

NOVEMBER 2026

Workshop on Pest Reporting · Hammamet, Tunisia

EPPO and NEPPO collaborate again to focus on pest reporting obligations, procedures and tools.

Objectives

Understand	Share	Discuss
Pest reporting obligations, including pest status determination	National experiences across the EPPO and NEPPO regions	Pest reporting procedures and tools

03 About the workshop

BACKGROUND

Key themes

01 How to fulfil reporting obligations

02 Benefits and challenges of pest reporting

03 National experiences with the determination of pest status

04 Managing pest reports and pest status over time (e.g. updating or closing cases)

05 Pest reporting procedures and tools

06 How pest reports are used internationally

07 Improving communication with scientists on pest reporting

Participants

22 countries

2 regions: EPPO and NEPPO

4 international institutions

International Plant Protection Convention

NEPPO
منظمة وقاية النباتات في الشرق الأدنى و شمال أفريقيا
Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization

European Commission

04 About the exercises

LEARNING BY DOING

1 Reporting obligations

TUESDAY · 11:30–13:00

ISPM 17 · NROs

Why, what, how and to whom should pests be reported? Groups explore the obligations under ISPM 17 and the IPPC National Reporting Obligations (NROs).

2 Determining pest status in an area

TUESDAY · 16:30–18:00

ISPM 8

Three scenarios on pest establishment, disputed historical records and uncertain eradication: groups determine and justify the most appropriate pest status.

3 Reporting procedures and tools

WEDNESDAY · 14:30–15:30

ISPM 17

Participants compare their national procedures for collecting, verifying and officially reporting pest information, identify gaps and propose practical improvements.



05

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER · MORNING

Field trip

A visit to a citrus orchard to see surveillance and pest reporting in practice, from field inspection to official notification.

DEPARTURE
Le Paradis Palace · 07:00

SITE
A private citrus farm in Bou Argoub, Northeastern Tunisia · بوعرقوب

RETURN
Lunch at the hotel · 13:00

BRING
Comfortable shoes, hat, water



Private citrus farm, Bou Argoub

Northeastern Tunisia · 100 ha · Maltaise oranges grown for export

07:00	**Departure from the hotel** Le Paradis Palace, Hammamet
08:00	**Arrival at the citrus farm**
08:00 – 08:30	**Overview of the farm and discussion**
08:30 – 09:30	**Field tour** Eradication of citrus black spot (CBS): collaboration between the owner and the NPPO of Tunisia, followed by a general discussion
09:30 – 10:00	*Coffee break*
10:00 – 12:00	**Tourist visit to the medina of Nabeul**
12:00 – 13:00	**Return to the hotel**

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

Session 1 · Reporting obligations
Chair: EPPO

TUESDAY · 09:30

Introducing and refreshing NROs: a practical reflection exercise

Camilo Beltran Montoya · IPPC Secretariat

About the speaker · ***Camilo Beltran Montoya*** *is an Agricultural Officer at the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, working in the International Plant Protection Convention. He leads work in the International Plant Protection Conventions work on the implementation of Phytosanitary Capacity Evaluations (PCEs) under the project "Strengthening food control and phytosanitary capacities and governance," which is a project financed by the European Union and led by the Food Safety Division (ESF) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Secretariat at FAO. He previously worked as an International Officer at the Comunidad Andina and as an Agricultural Engineer in Colombia.*

TUESDAY · 09:30

Reporting obligations to EPPO

Muriel Suffert · EPPO Secretariat

About the speaker · ***Muriel Suffert*** *is the Information Manager at the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, where she has worked for over 23 years. As the Information Manager, she leads the Information Services team and is repsonsible for the maintenance of the EPPO Global Database, horizon scanning on regulated and emerging plant pests and managing the EPPO Panel on Plant Protection Information. Before working in Information Services, she was a Senior Scientific Officer at EPPO responsible for the management of Expert Working Groups, several Panels and helped in the development of the PP1 Database and the Platform of PRAs.*

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

Session 2 · Determination of pest status and ISPM 8
Chair: NPPO Tunisia

TUESDAY · 14:00

Pest reporting and pest status determination

Samuel Warner · EPPO Secretariat

How do we determine pest status? What is the responsibility of an NPPO to report this? What details need to be reported? In this presentation, we will provide an overview of the international Standards that answer these questions: IPSM 8 and 17.

ISPM 8 is an international Standard from the IPPC that describes the content of a pest record and the use of pest records and other information in the determination of pest status in an area. IPSM 17 describes the responsibilities of and requirements for contracting parties in reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests in areas for which they are responsible.

This presentation will provide a simple overview of these international Standards so that participants can leave knowing how to make a pest status and their international responsibilities.

TUESDAY · 14:20

Pest reporting and status management

Lily Kadirova · United Kingdom

National experience: determining pest status in an outbreak
England and Wales use a structured evidence-to-decision model. The evidence base covers pest identity, confirmation status, location, host, damage, origin, extent, likelihood of spread and actions taken. At the triage stage, the Outbreak Triage Group (OTG) applies an investigation and assessment template, then sets a White, Black, Amber or Red alert status. A feasibility test then considers host importance, likely impact, the cost and practicality of control measures, current distribution and the consequences of delay. National coordination is usually led by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) in horticultural settings and by the Forestry Commission (FC) in forestry settings, while Defra may coordinate complex Amber or Red incidents.

About the speaker · ***Lily Kadirova*** *is a Senior Policy Advisor in International Plant Health team who has been working for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) for 7 years, the last 5 of them in plant health. The main areas of her work include phytosanitary market access, international regulatory engagement, addressing phytosanitary trade barriers, coordinating, and reporting UK surveillance and interception information.*

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

TUESDAY · 14:40

Report on Citrus Black Spot in Tunisia and monitoring

Lassaad Medhioub · Tunisia

Phyllosticta citricarpa, the fungus responsible Citrus Black Spot disease (CBS), was reported for the first time in 2019 in the northeastern Tunisia (Governorate of Nabeul). A survey was conducted in the main production regions and this confirmed the presence of the disease in the areas of Bouargoub, Béni Khalled, and Menzel Bouzelfa. Phyllosticta citricarpa is described as present, not widely distributed and subject to official control and official measures have been applied (EPPO RS 2019/141). In response to this threat, NPPO Tunisia implemented Integrated Pest Management to prevent the pest spreading to other production areas. Firstly, a territorial surveillance program was developed, based on relevant International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs), to delimit the occurrence of CBS and to map the results. Phytosanitary measures were adopted: surveillance of citrus production areas, disease detection and technical training to farmers, technicians and exporters on the description of the disease, symptoms, means of prevention and control. An IPM program was developed: chemical treatments and cultivation techniques and monitoring is renewed during each citrus cultivation campaign. The implementation of these measures led to the management of the infested areas, since the initial detection of the disease only one interception of a shipment contaminated by CBS has been recorded.

About the speaker · ***Ing. Lassaad Medhioub*** *is a senior engineer and plant health inspector for the Tunisian NPPO, specialized in quarantine pest eradication and border trade controls. As a national coordinator, he manages the E-Phyto system and serves as Tunisia's WTO SPS information point. He also trains inspectors, edits IPPC content, and heads the NEPPO quarantine and transboundary pests working group.*

TUESDAY · 15:00

Pest Reporting in Czech Republic

Kateřina Jégrová · Czech Republic

An overview of the pest reporting system in Czech Republic is provided. It is maintained by the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (UKZUZ), acting as the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO).

Accurate determination of the pest status is a key element of plant health systems, providing the basis for phytosanitary measures, pest risk assessment, surveillance activities and official reporting as well as for support of trade activities.

The process from pest detection and identification to pest status determination and official reporting is described, with particular emphasis on the implementation of ISPM 8. The information and evidence used to support pest status determination are outlined, together with the roles and responsibilities of the different units of the Czech NPPO involved in the process. A practical example from Czechia demonstrates how pest status categories are applied, reviewed and updated over time, and how these changes are reflected in official reports. The importance of harmonized pest status determination and timely information exchange between NPPOs for effective phytosanitary decision-making and international reporting is highlighted.

About the speaker · *With eight years of experience in plant health,* ***Kateřina Jégrová*** *works as a Plant Health Specialist at the Central Institute for Supervising and Testing in Agriculture (ÚKZÚZ), the National Plant Protection Organization of Czechia. Her work covers the methodology and coordination of quarantine pest surveys, pest reporting, pest status assessment and outbreak management, as well as the procurement of survey materials and trapping equipment.*

TUESDAY · 15:20

The National Strategy for the Eradication of Red Palm Weevil *(Rhynchophorus ferrugineus)* in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Mohamed El Hady Sidatt & Sabrine Meridja · FAO-SNE Tunisia

Mauritania's national date palm population is estimated at approximately 2.6 million trees, covering a total area of around 20,000 hectares in five regions.

In late December 2015, the first known outbreak of Red Palm Weevil (*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus*) in Mauritania was detected in the oasis of Tidjikja (central Mauritania), following the introduction of imported date palm offshoots. This invasive caused significant agricultural and economic challenges to date palm health and we must safeguard the country's oasis heritage.

In response to this threat, the Mauritanian authorities, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), adopted an Integrated Pest Management approach combining technical interventions with regulatory, legislative and plant quarantine measures.

The objective of this approach was to eradicate the identified outbreak and prevent RPW from spreading to other date palm-producing areas. Implementation of these measures led to the identification and management of the infested sites. A total of 102 infested palm trees were removed and cremated in 2016, and two infested trees in 2017. According to the available information since 2018 until today, no outbreak of RPW has been reported in the Tidjikja oasis.

The Mauritanian experience highlights the importance of the early intervention and the national pest reporting (coordinated implementation of field surveillance, pheromone trapping, phytosanitary measures and regulatory controls) supported by institutional coordination and international technical assistance, in achieving the eradication of this quarantine pest.

About the speaker · ***Mohamed El Hadi Sidatt*** *is a Regional Plant Protection Officer at FAO's Subregional Office for North Africa (FAO-SNE).*

Session 3 · Pest reporting procedures and tools
Chair: NEPPO

WEDNESDAY · 14:00

Saudi Arabia' tools and Procedures for pest reporting

Talal Al Mutairi · Saudi Arabia

Pest reporting is a key obligation under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), supporting the exchange of official information on pest occurrence, outbreaks and spread.

This presentation outlines Saudi Arabia's approach to pest information management through three interconnected stages: national monitoring and internal notification, technical verification and assessment, and decision-making for international pest reporting.

It highlights the internal notification procedures developed by Weqaa Center to facilitate the collection, assessment and escalation of pest-related information from field surveillance, farmers' reports, laboratory results and international alerts. These procedures support timely communication and coordination between technical sectors and the Risk, Emergency and Business Continuity Center.

The presentation also explains the complementary roles of ISPM 6 (Surveillance), ISPM 8 (Determination of Pest Status in an Area) and ISPM 17 (Pest Reporting), emphasizing the importance of technical verification and pest status determination before international reporting.

The presentation concludes by highlighting the distinction between internal notification and international pest reporting, and the importance of reliable information, technical assessment and institutional coordination in supporting effective pest reporting.

About the speaker · ***Talal Almutairi*** *is an engineer specializing in plant protection. He has been serving as the Director General of the General Directorate of Phytosanitary Risks at the National Center for the Prevention and Control of Plant Pests and Animal Diseases (Weqaa Center) since 2018.*

WEDNESDAY · 14:15

Pest reporting of Outbreaks and Findings of Pests in the Netherlands

Monique Gerrits-Verdel · Netherlands

The Netherlands is one of the 27 EU Member States. According to the EU regulation 2016/2031 (Plant Health Regulation) and EU regulation 2019/1715, as implementing regulation under the EU 2017/625 (Official Control Regulation), the Netherlands is obliged to notify findings of EU quarantine organisms via the EU system EUROPHYT OUTBREAKS. In addition, as a NPPO, we are also obliged to report changes in pest status to EPPO and on the IPP portal.

The Netherlands make us of two flowcharts which schematically illustrate when a new or already regulated organism must be notified to the Commission and EU Member States, EPPO and globally. Reporting of the occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger is very important.

The importance of a timely reporting of pests is explained in a case description of a former outbreak in the Netherlands of at that time an EU non-regulated *Anthonomus eugenii* (the pepper weevil).

About the speaker · ***Monique Gerrits-Verdel*** *has worked for the NPPO of the Netherlands since 1997, and as a Senior Plant Health Officer since 2010, specialising in EU plant health legislation and its implementation. She represents the Netherlands on the Standing Committee on Plant Health, acts as a contact point for EU import issues and interceptions, and is responsible for reporting pest outbreaks in the Netherlands. Since 2026, she has also been a member of the EPPO Panel on Phytosanitary Inspections.*

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

WEDNESDAY · 14:15

The Egyptian experience on pest reporting: Fall Armyworm case study

Islam Aboelela & Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa · Egypt · NEPPO

About the speaker · *An international expert in plant health and regulatory affairs, Islam is the Supervisor of the Plant Health Unit at the Egyptian Plant Quarantine and a lecturer at Cairo University. He combines over 17 years of experience in agricultural work, plant health, and food safety across the field, laboratory and executive office settings. He holds postgraduate diplomas, Master's and Doctoral degrees. Specializing in sanitary and phytosanitary issues, pest risk analysis and market access negotiations, he has supported both the public and private sectors globally.*

Session 4 · How pest reports are used internationally
Chair: IPPC

WEDNESDAY · 16:00

Pest reporting in the NENA region

Mohamed Habib Ben Jamâa · NEPPO Secretariat

According to the Article VIII of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the contracting parties cooperate in the exchange of information on plant pests, particularly the reporting of the occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger, in accordance with such procedures as may be established by the commission. Nevertheless, several contracting parties ignore this crucial detail, mainly in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. Actually, only six NENA member countries report on the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests to the IPP and three to the EPPO. The first report was on *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* in Jordan on 1999 (EPPO) and the last one on *Dactylopius opuntiae* in Tunisia on 2024 (IPP). It seems that pest reporting depends on countries awareness rather than on pest severity. Thus, *Erwinia amylovora* was reported in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia. *Rhynchophorus ferruginus* was reported in Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Reporting on *Spodoptera frugiperda* was done by Egypt, Jordan and Syria and United Arab Emirates. On the other hand, a question that might arise is, should pest reporting should be based on NPPOs report or scientific publications? In fact, in the NENA region six pest reports were delivered by NPPOs and seven based on scientific publications.

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

To conclude, pest reporting is not only NPPOs obligations but also RPPOs obligations that should work on toolbox documents like pest reporting. Thereby, this collaborative workshop EPPO/NEPPO is dedicated to enhance contracting countries about the NPOs.

WEDNESDAY · 16:15

How does EPPO use pest reporting information?

Muriel Suffert · EPPO Secretariat

This presentation will explain how EPPO collects information on pest reports and how this information is disseminated. This presentation will allow participants to understand what information is helpful in pest reports and the reason this information is needed.

EPPO can access some pest reports that are sent to Europhyt by EU countries and Switzerland via a dedicated interface, while we directly receive pest reports from other EPPO non-EU countries. EPPO summarises and harmonizes this information. This is published in a monthly newsletter, the EPPO Reporting Service. All articles and information published in the Reporting Service can be retrieved in EPPO Global Database (https://gd.eppo.int/).

Additional relevant data, for example information on host plants, is also added to the Global Database, alongside quarantine lists for a number of countries worldwide. This presentation will also show features of Global Database that can facilitate the work of experts.

WEDNESDAY · 16:30

How does the IPPC use pest reporting information?

Camilo Beltran Montoya · IPPC Secretariat

WEDNESDAY · 16:45

EUROPHYT: the EU information system for reporting plant pest outbreaks *(remote)*

Paul Roquiny · European Commission

EUROPHYT is the European Commission's online information system for notifying plant pest outbreaks on the Union territory, under Regulation (EU) 2016/2031. This presentation outlines the context, content, and use of EUROPHYT and its integration into a broader international framework."

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

Session 5 · First reports of pests by scientists
Chair: NEPPO

THURSDAY · 09:00

From scientific detection to pest reporting: lessons from three alien insect records on ornamental plants in Algeria

Zine Eddine Labdaoui · Algeria

Academic researchers can contribute to the early detection of alien plant pests through field observations, diagnostic expertise and scientific documentation. This presentation draws on three Algerian case studies involving insects associated with ornamental plants: *Cacyreus marshalli*, *Phenacoccus madeirensis* and *Singhiella simplex*. The cases illustrate different pathways of detection, including a citizen observation followed by academic investigation, the detection of an unknown mealybug requiring specialist taxonomic expertise, and an academic field observation followed by a targeted survey of urban green spaces.

Despite these different starting points, a common sequence emerges: unusual observation, collection of evidence, reliable identification, follow-up investigation and scientific documentation. These experiences also highlight the distinction between a scientific pest record and official pest reporting. Scientific evidence can contribute to surveillance and pest-status assessment, but it does not replace the official phytosanitary process.

The presentation therefore focuses on how academic detections can be better connected to plant-protection authorities through clear communication channels, appropriate supporting evidence and two-way feedback. The repeated detections in ornamental plants and urban green spaces also suggest that these environments may provide useful opportunities for early detection within broader plant-health surveillance systems.

Zine Eddine Labdaoui *is an Associate Professor of Agricultural Entomology at the Higher School of Agronomy Mostaganem, Algeria. He previously headed the Plant Protection specialization. His research focuses on pest surveillance, biological control, integrated pest management, and alien insects associated with agricultural and ornamental plants. He has contributed to several first national records, including publications in EPPO Bulletin.*

06 Abstracts & biographies

THE PRESENTATIONS

THURSDAY · 09:15

First record of *Donus intermedius* damaging lemon balm *(Melissa officinalis)* in South Tyrol, Italy

Yazmid Reyes Dominguez · Italy

Lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis*) is an important medicinal and aromatic plant widely cultivated in South Tyrol (Northern Italy). In spring 2019, extensive leaf damage was observed in two cultivated fields. Larvae and pupae of a Curculionidae species were collected from affected plants and reared under laboratory conditions until adulthood. Adults were morphologically identified as *Donus intermedius* (Coleoptera: Curculionidae), a species not previously known to cause damage to lemon balm. Partial sequencing of the cytochrome c oxidase subunit I (COI) gene allowed differentiation of *D. intermedius* from other species of the genus *Donus*. The COI sequence therefore represents a useful molecular tool for species identification, particularly at immature developmental stages.

Yazmid Reyes Domínguez *works in phytosanitary diagnostics at the Laimburg Research Centre in South Tyrol, Italy. Her main areas of work include the detection and identification of regulated and emerging plant pathogens through microbiological and molecular diagnostic methods. Her work supports plant health monitoring and phytosanitary surveillance.*

THURSDAY · 09:30

Examples of issues with pest reports by scientists

Muriel Suffert · EPPO Secretariat

07 Useful information

PRACTICAL DETAILS



VENUE

Le Paradis Palace 4*

Conference room · P.O. Box 8050,
Hammamet, Tunisia

Open in Google Maps

Free Wifi

Buffet meals and tourist tax included

ACCOMMODATION

Participants stay at the Paradis Palace Hotel, where the workshop takes place. NEPPO manages the room reservations, and participants pay the hotel directly upon arrival.

GETTING THERE

From Tunis–Carthage **(TUN)** or Enfidha–Hammamet **(NBE)** international airports, a tourist taxi is the best option to reach Hammamet.

BOARD

ALL INCLUSIVE SOFT

RECOMMENDED CONTACT

Adam · Wave Travel Agency
WhatsApp +216 20 990 273
reservation.wavetravel@gmail.com

WORKING LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

Virtual participation will also be available; the link will be shared later.

07 During your stay

PRACTICAL DETAILS

CURRENCY

TND

Tunisian dinar. Exchange is possible at Tunis–Carthage airport and at the hotel; we recommend changing money at the airport.

PAYMENT

Visa · MC

Visa and MasterCard are widely accepted; cash is also commonly used.

WEATHER

12–22 °C

Average November temperatures (54–72 °F).

TIME ZONE

GMT+1

Same time as Paris in November.

ELECTRICITY

230 V

Type C and E plugs, with two round pins.

DISCOVER TUNISIA

Tourism

Ideas and practical tips on discovertunisia.com

ON-SITE CONTACT

For any questions, please contact:

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08 About EPPO

THE ORGANISERS

What is EPPO?

EPPO is an intergovernmental organization responsible for international cooperation in plant protection in the European and Mediterranean region. Under Article IX of the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), it is the Regional Plant Protection Organization for Europe.

Founded in 1951 by 15 member governments, it now has 52, covering nearly every country of Western and Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Founded 1951 | **52 member governments** | **Paris, France**

Aims is EPPO

EPPO has two main areas of activity: plant quarantine and pest control. Its main aims are:

1. To protect plant health in agriculture, forestry and the uncultivated environment.
2. To develop an international strategy against the introduction and spread of pests, including invasive alien plants, that damage cultivated and wild plants in natural and agricultural ecosystems.
3. To encourage the harmonization of phytosanitary regulations and all other areas of official plant protection action.
4. To promote the use of modern, safe and effective pest control methods.
5. To provide a documentation service on plant protection.

08 About EPPO

STRUCTURE & SERVICES

EPPO structure

EPPO is administered by its Council, made up of representatives of all member governments, and by its Executive Committee (7 governments elected on a rotational basis). A Secretariat of 14 people is based in Paris, and the Organization is financed by annual contributions from its member governments. The technical work is overseen by Working Parties and Panels, whose experts are nominated by their National Plant Protection Organizations.

COUNCIL › EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE › WORKING PARTIES › PANELS › NPPOs

Supported throughout by the EPPO Secretariat (Paris) · English · French · Russian

EPPO Standards

Recommendations made to the NPPOs of member governments, considered as Regional Standards under the IPPC.

Plant protection products

- Efficacy evaluation of plant protection products
- Good plant protection practice
- Environmental risk assessment of plant protection products

Phytosanitary measures

- General phytosanitary measures
- Phytosanitary procedures
- Production of healthy plants for planting
- Pest Risk Analysis (PRA)
- Safe use of biological control
- Diagnostic protocols
- Commodity-specific measures
- National regulatory control systems
- Phytosanitary treatments

Information services

EPPO Bulletin · EPPO Global Database · Pest Risk Analyses · Database on diagnostic expertise · EPPO Reporting Service · Datasheets on quarantine pests · EPPO Alert List

08 About NEPPO

THE ORGANISERS

What is NEPPO?

NEPPO is an intergovernmental organization responsible for international cooperation in plant protection in the Near East and North Africa (NENA) region. Under Article IX of the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), it is the Regional Plant Protection Organization for the NENA region. NEPPO was formally recognized as an RPPO in 2012.

13 contracting parties | **RPPO since 2012** | **Rabat, Morocco**

Member countries

- MAURITANIA
- MOROCCO
- ALGERIA
- TUNISIA
- LIBYA
- EGYPT
- SUDAN
- JORDAN
- SYRIA
- IRAQ
- OMAN
- PAKISTAN
- SAUDI ARABIA

Aims is NEPPO

1. To promote the harmonization of phytosanitary measures and their practical implementation in member countries.
2. To promote the use and application of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).
3. To develop Regional Standards.
4. To support the production of approved propagation material for fruit trees in the NENA region.

08 About NEPPO

COOPERATION · GOVERNANCE

A regional platform

A forum for regional cooperation, coordination and technical exchange among NEPPO countries.

Strong partnerships

NEPPO builds partnerships with NPPOs, RPPOs, FAO and the IPPC.

Governance

NEPPO is administered by its Governing Council, made up of representatives of all member governments, and by its Executive Committee (6 governments elected on a rotational basis). The Secretariat, based in Morocco, consists of three people:

Dr Mohamed Habib Ben Jamaa
Executive Director

Dr Olfa Ezzine
Scientific Coordinator

Mr Yassir Bourhdadi
Administrative Officer

Technical Working Groups

NEPPO's technical activities are directed by three Technical Working Groups, which meet every year in one of the member countries.

1. **Standards for Phytosanitary Measures**
2. **Quarantine and Transboundary Pests**
3. **Pesticides and Alternative Products**

NEPPO
منظمة وقاية النباتات في الشرق الأدنى و شمال أفريقيا
Near East and North Africa Plant Protection Organization

Contacts

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EPPO on LinkedIn

Scan the QR codes to discover our work in plant health

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