

## THE IMMINENT INVASION OF THE EMERALD ASH BORER IN SOUTHERN EUROPE AND THE THREAT TO NATIVE OLEACEAE

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European countries are increasingly under invasion by non-native insects that are highly invasive in North America. For instance, the Japanese beetle *Popillia japonica*, the brown marmorated stink bug *Halyomorpha halys* and the Asian chestnut gall wasp *Dryocosmus kuriphilus*, notorious non-native pests of crops and forests in North America, have been recently introduced in Europe, with devastating consequence. The globally invasive emerald ash borer (EAB) *Agrilus planipennis* is currently expanding its range in both North America and European Russia, and its introduction in Southern Europe appears imminent. Furthermore, the spread of forest pathogens such as the ash dieback caused by *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, are adding concerns to the conservation of native forest habitats and *Fraxinus* species in particular. In addition, the recently reported utilization of non-*Fraxinus* hosts in the family Oleaceae is opening new scenarios for EAB invasion dynamics and future management challenges in Southern Europe. We seek to: (a) resume most recent knowledge on the pest's current distribution in Europe, (b) present natural distributions of native Oleaceae in the southern part of the continent, and (c) propose tools for predicting EAB invasion pathways and impact in Southern Europe.

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