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**Pathogens / Pathogenicity - Part II**

**XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA, THE HIDDEN THREAT FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN AGRICULTURE**

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**Backgrounds**

*Xylella fastidiosa* is a xylem limited bacteria, considered a quarantine organism. Originally circumscribed to America, it has been recently identified in Italy, France, Germany and Spain. Its economic importance is due to the large number of plant hosts, the severe symptoms induced, the long list of vectors and its difficult control. This pathogen represents a threat not only for European agricultural crops, but also for landscape trees and ornamentals.

**Objectives**

An update of the diseases caused by *X. fastidiosa*, new information about its biology and epidemiology in Europe and the role of accurate diagnostic protocols.

**Methods**

Following the identification in 2013 of *X. fastidiosa* subsp. *pauca* in southern Italy, rapid emergency measures have been implemented in the EU for its prevention. Available information suggests that the Italian strain could have been introduced with ornamental plants imported from Costa Rica. In addition, in Spain, the first detection in Mallorca island, in October 2016 using the EPPO protocol of diagnostic, was immediately followed by new detections in the nearby Ibiza island. Later on, the pathogen has been detected in 92 points in olive, almond, stone fruit trees and many ornamentals. There are several subspecies of *X. fastidiosa* involved and vectors are under study.

**Conclusions**

These two examples demonstrate that the global market could lead to dissemination of quarantine organisms. The prevention of this pathogen requires further investigations, as well as intensive surveys and accurate analytical methods (PonTE and XF-ACTORS projects financed by the H2020 Program of the European Union).