EUROPEAN AND MEDITERRANEAN PLANT PROTECTION ORGANIZATION

22-27347

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process[1] for: *Alternanthera sessilis*

Section A. Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment

A.1 Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?
Yes: *Alternanthera sessilis* is native to Brazil (EPPO, 2020).

A.2 Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment? (if yes goto A5)
Yes the species is established in the EPPO region. The species has been recorded in Algeria, Belgium, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Russia, Spain, Turkey (EPPO, 2020). In Spain it is considered established (Sanz-Elorza *et al*., 2008).

A. 3 Is the plant species known to be invasive outside the area under assessment?
A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.4 Based on ecoclimatic conditions, could the species establish in the area under assessment?
A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.5 How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?
High spread potential with moderate uncertainty: The plant spreads by seeds, which are wind-and water-dispersed, and by rooting at stem nodes. CABI (2022) highlights: *A. sessilis* spreads by seeds and vegetatively by stems that run along the soil surface and root at the nodes. Seeds are dispersed by wind and water and stem fragments can be carried considerable distances by floodwater—downstream and out over floodplains. Once established, stem fragments can produce new roots. Fragmentation and dispersal can also occur as a result of human activity.

A.6 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?
Medium with a high uncertainty: *A. sessilis* is an environmental weed and an invasive plant principally in wetlands. Under favourable conditions, it grows forming pure stands of dense, interwoven stems that smother aquatic and semi-aquatic habitats; block irrigation ditches and dams; replace native vegetation.

A.7 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?
Medium with a high uncertainty: In Taiwan, *A. sessilis* is a weed in rice paddies. The species would impact on agricultural production in Italy and other areas of the EPPO region.

A.8 How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?
Medium with a high uncertainty: As an aquatic species, *A. sessilis* has the potential to block irrigation channels and drain systems thereby impacting on infrastructure. Additionally, the species could block access to water ways for recreation activities.

[1] EPPO (2012) EPPO Prioritization process for invasive alien plants. EPPO Bulletin 42, 463-474.

Outcome of Section A: *Alternanthera sessilis* is included on the EPPO Observation List

		A5 -Spread potential		
		Low	Medium	High
Adverse impacts (maximum rating from questions A6, A7 and A8.	Low	List of minor concern	List of minor concern	List of minor concern
	Medium	List of minor concern	Observation List	Observation List
	High	Observation List	Observation List	List of invasive alien plants

Alternanthera sessilis is not considered further. The assessment stops here.

B. Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1 Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

B.2 Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

B.3 Does the plant species still have a significant area suitable for further spread in the area under assessment?

Outcome of section B:

Selected references

CABI (2022) *Alternanthera sessilis*. Available at: https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/4404

EPPO (2020) Mini data sheet on *Alternanthera sessilis*. Available at: https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/ALRSE/documents

Sanz-Elorza M, González Bernardo F, Gavilán Iglesias LP, (2008) The alien flora of Castilia and León (Spain). *Botanica Complutensis* **32**, 117-137.