

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process¹ for: *Akebia quinata*

The 2022/23/24, a number of species from the EPPO Observation List were re-prioritized with current information to assess if they should remain on the Observation List or moved to another List. This is the 2024 prioritization summary for *Akebia quinata* where the outcome is the species should remain on the Observation List.

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: *Akebia quinata* is native to Asia (EPPO, 2012).

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. It has a limited distribution, recorded as present in the Belgium (Baus et al., 2009), France (EPPO, 2024), Georgia (Kikodze et al., 2010), Italy (Celesti-Grappo et al., 2009), Slovenia (Glasnović & Pecnikar, 2010), Switzerland (Brunel et al., 2010), and the United Kingdom (Clement & Foster, 1994).

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?

Medium spread potential with moderate uncertainty:

The vine spreads mainly vegetatively. This plant does not always produce fruits; seeds are known to be carried by birds, but are not carried by wind or insects. Natural spread is local in the EPPO region. *A. quinata* is largely spread by human activities. The species does not appear to have spread significantly in the EPPO region since its addition to the Observation List in 2012. In the UK, there are a limited number of records in urban and semi-urban environments (Jones, 2024). Also in Belgium, there are some reports of spread from sites, including in wasteland where a self-sown population has occurred (Verloove, 2015).

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:

Akebia quinata can form dense curtains of intertwined stems that cover, out compete and kill existing ground level herbs and seedlings, understory shrubs and young trees, and overtop canopy trees. Once established, the plant can prevent germination and establishment of native species. In North America, the species is considered highly invasive in some States, for example Virginia and North Carolina. However, this invasive behaviour has not been observed in the EPPO region to date, and the likelihood of impacts is considered restricted due to the lack of spread seen in the EPPO region.

A.7 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

Low with a medium uncertainty:

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

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There is no evidence that there are any current economic impacts in the EPPO region and it is unlikely that such impacts will occur if the current situation (low number of populations in the natural environment and low spread potential) remain constant.

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)?

Low with a high uncertainty:

Although there is the potential for impacts, i.e. on infrastructure and reducing access to recreational activities (as seen with its smothering behaviour in the USA), it remains unlikely that these will be realised in the EPPO region in the near future.

Outcome of Section A: *Akebia quinata* 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

Akebia quinata 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

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Brunel S, Schrader G, Brundu G, Fried G (2010) Emerging invasive alien plants for the Mediterranean Basin. Bulletin OEPP/EPPO Bulletin 40(2), 219-238.

Clement E.J. & Foster M.C. (1994) Alien plants of the British Isles. BSBI, London: XVIII + 590 p.

EPPO (2024) EPPO Global Database. www.gd.eppo.int

Especies exotiques Envahissantes (2021) <http://especies-exotiques-envahissantes.fr/espece/akebia-quinata/>

Glasnović, P. & Pečnikar, Ž., 2010. *Akebia quinata* (Houtt.) Dcne., new species for Slovenian flora, and contribution to the knowledge of the neophytic flora of Primorska region. *Hladnikia*, 25, pp.31-43.

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Jones T (2024) GB non-native risk assessment for *Akebia quinata*. <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/risk-analysis/risk-assessment/>

Kikodze D, Memiadze N, Kharazishvili D, Manvelidze Z, Mueller-Schaerer H (2010) The alien flora of Georgia. 36 pp.