

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process¹ for: *Araujia sericifera*

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 *Araujia sericifera* where the outcome is the species should be moved to the List of Invasive Alien Plants and the species is a priority for a PRA.

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. *Araujia sericifera* is native to South America (POWO, 2024).

A.2 Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment? (if yes goto A5)

Yes. *Araujia sericifera* is established in the EPPO region (EPPO, 2010). It is reported as naturalised in France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. It also occurs in other countries as a casual species, e.g. Algeria (EPPO, 2024).

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:

Seed is spread by wind and water (USDA, 2012). The vine grows vigorously. The large quantities of seeds produced are viable for at least 5 years. The plant is available in horticulture and can be moved by human assisted spread. In Italy, an increased spread has been seen in recent years (Musarella et al., 2024).

A.6 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

High with a high uncertainty:

In areas of the invasive range (e.g. New Zealand, and Hawaii), *Araujia sericifera* has dense foliage that can smother native shrubs and trees and prevents the regeneration of native species in natural ecosystems. Additionally, the heavy weight of fruiting vines can break tree branches (Weber, 2003). Floral secretions of *A. sericifera* can kill native insect pollinators (EPPO, 2008). In Italy, *A. sericifera* is reported as invasive in Campania (Laface et al., 2020). In Italy, *A. sericifera* is reported to be moving from a casual alien to a naturalised or invasive species (Musarella et al., 2024). It is also reported as invasive in Portugal and Spain.

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

High with a high uncertainty:

In the invasive range, *A. sericifera* can invade disturbed forests. USDA (2012) note, that *A. sericifera* often thrive in citrus groves, competing with trees for water, nutrients, and light. Plants grow extremely fast.

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

Vines can grow over tree canopies within a couple of years and kill individual branches by girdling. In the EPPO region, it is reported to be a problematic species in citrus orchards where it can climb the trunks (Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, n.d.).

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 moderate uncertainty:

There are reports that *A. sericifera* is a host of Alfalfa mosaic virus in Italy (Parrella et al., 2013). The species can produce a irritating latex which can affect humans.

Outcome of Section A: *Araujia sericifera* is included on the EPPO List of invasive alien plants

		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

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?

Yes: *A. sericifera* is available as an ornamental plant species in horticulture and can be purchased with trade.

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

Yes: the risk of introduction by international pathways is superior to natural spread.

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

Yes: Currently, *A. sericifera* is not widespread in the EPPO region and in areas where the species can establish, there remains areas where the species can spread into.

Outcome of section B: *Araujia sericifera* is a priority for an EPPO PRA

Selected references

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