

# NEWSLETTER OBSERVATORY OF HIGH-STAKE SPECIES FOR HUMAN HEALTH



OBSERVATOIRE DES ESPECES  
A ENJEUX  
POUR LA SANTE HUMAINE

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## HIGH-STAKE SPECIES FOR HUMAN HEALTH: REVIEW OF THE YEAR

News

**In 2023, ragweed once again made headlines in France. We offer you a brief overview of the most significant news regarding this troublesome plant.**



**~9400**

Reports of ragweed have been made on the french ragweed reporting platform.

The Ragweed Leaf Beetle (*Ophraella communa*), the insect that eats ragweeds, has been found for the first time in France.

**114**

events were organised in France during the Days of Fighting Against Ragweed.

**~33000**

views on our Youtube videos on the topic of ragweeds

**The processionary mothss are also subject to specific regulations in France as high-stake species for human health.**



A compilation of methods for managing Pine and Oak processionary caterpillars was published.



Development of a project for a caterpillar participatory science platform.

**May 18, 2023**

This marks the date of the first day dedicated to processionary caterpillars organized in France.

This event aims to inform and raise awareness among the general public, elected officials, environmental managers, and other professionals about the processionary caterpillars.

**3**

IRS online conference "Let's talk about ambrosia !"

**5**

Newsletters from the Observatory of high-stake species for human health



And more to come in 2024 ! Happy holidays and see you next year...

## MELON AND AMBROSIA : WHAT'S THE LINK?

“Let’s talk about *Ambrosia!*” are regular short online conferences organised by the International Ragweed Society that aim to share knowledge about all aspects of vital ragweed functions, its impact and means of control.

The second session presented by Pr **Victoria Rodinkova** from the University of Vinnystia (Ukraine) dealt with “Pollen-food syndrome caused by *Ambrosia*”.

Avoid melons and watermelons during the ragweed season ! This is the key advice for people diagnosed for both ragweed and food allergy. It might not be suitable to you in case you either do not have ragweed allergy or food allergy on the background to pollen sensitivity.

However, many people allergic to ragweed experience allergy to various food products indeed due to the **cross-reactivity of pollen and food allergens**. This pertains, first of all, to profilins, which are pan allergens of plants found in pollen and plant-derived food products. The most common cross-reactions are seen between ragweed pollen and plant profilins of Cucurbitaceae family (includes melons, watermelons, cucumbers, pumpkins, zucchini). Other candidates to cross-reactivity with *Ambrosia* pollen include various medicinal herbs of the Asteraceae family. So, if you are allergic to ragweed, it might be impossible for you to drink chamomile tea as you can experience the oral allergy syndrome associated with lip swelling, itching and tingling of the mouth and lips and other symptoms pertaining to the mouth and throat.

This was a very short summary of the lecture of Professor Victoria Rodinkova. More information you can find [here](#).

**You can be a speaker too!** If you would like to present your ragweed-related work or project to the community, please contact: [irs.ragweed@gmail.com](mailto:irs.ragweed@gmail.com) with a short summary of your presentation proposal.



## News

### THE VIRUS CARRIED BY THE HYALOMMA TICK DETECTED IN THE SOUTH OF FRANCE

The virus responsible for Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) was detected for the first time in France in October 2023.

CIRAD (Centre for international cooperation in agricultural research for development) has discovered the presence of the Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) virus in ticks of the *Hyalomma marginatum* species, found on cattle in the Pyrénées-Orientales. This information was confirmed by the CNR (National Reference Center) for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers of the Pasteur Institute, thus signaling the first detection of this virus in France.

#### What is CCHF ?

Nine times out of ten the disease goes unnoticed, but very severe forms are possible. In this case, within 2 to 7 days after the bite, the illness begins suddenly: a flu-like state (fever, muscle pain, headache), sometimes accompanied by digestive or ENT problems, or a rash. The most seriously affected patients may develop a hemorrhagic syndrome with involvement of all the viscera. The fatality rate of hemorrhagic forms can reach 30%.

### SHORT NOTICE

- “Fredonnons la Nature”, a scientific podcast from FREDON France was launched at the beginning of 2023 and dealt, each month, with a new species of concern. The first season of the podcast ended with an episode on *Hylesia metabus*, a moth representing a challenge for human health. The podcasts can be found following this link (in French only) : <https://linktr.ee/fredonfrance>

### SOURCES

1. **Actualité Anses du 24/10/2023.** [Fièvre Hémorragique de Crimée-Congo : première détection du virus dans des élevages bovins dans le sud de la France](#)

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Follow all the Observatory actions on social medias:



Former Ragweed Observatory letters can be consulted [here](#)