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Portable LAMP (Loop mediated isothermal AMPLification): new molecular assays to detect invasive plant pathogens.

Questa è la Versione finale referata (Post print/Accepted manuscript) della seguente pubblicazione:

Original Citation:

Portable LAMP (Loop mediated isothermal AMPLification): new molecular assays to detect invasive plant pathogens / Aglietti, Chiara; Ghelardini, Luisa; Capretti, Paolo; Santini, Alberto; Luchi, Nicola. - ELETTRONICO. - (2017), pp. 151-151. (Intervento presentato al convegno The 7th ESENIA workshop with scientific conference. Networking and regional cooperation towards invasive alien species prevention and

Availability:

The webpage <https://hdl.handle.net/2158/1097724> of the repository was last updated on 2017-10-11T15:20:45Z

Publisher:

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER-BAS); East and

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7th ESENIAS Workshop with Scientific Conference

*Networking and Regional Cooperation
Towards Invasive Alien Species Prevention
and Management in Europe*

28–30 March 2017
SOFIA, BULGARIA

Book of Abstracts

Sofia, Bulgaria
2017

The Conference was organised by:

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (**IBER-BAS**)
East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species (**ESENIAS**)
Danube Region Invasive Alien Species Network (**DIAS**)



The Conference was supported by:

Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009-2014
Programme BG03 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
ESENIAS-TOOLS Project, D-33-51/30.06.2015



Bulgarian Science Fund, Project DPMNF 01/8/ 21.03.2017



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**East and South European Network for Invasive
Alien Species (ESENIAS)**

**Sofia, Bulgaria
2017**

7th ESENIAS Workshop with Scientific Conference

Networking and Regional Cooperation Towards Invasive Alien Species Prevention and Management in Europe

Book of Abstracts

Editors:

**Teodora Trichkova, Rumen Tomov, Vladimir Vladimirov
Hristina Kalcheva, Yuriy Vanev, Ahmet Uludağ,
Violeta Tyufekchieva**

Reviews were made by the Members of the Scientific Committee

Citation:

Trichkova T., R. Tomov, V. Vladimirov, H. Kalcheva, Y. Vanev, A. Uludağ, V. Tyufekchieva (Eds.) 2017. Book of Abstracts, 7th ESENIAS Workshop with Scientific Conference 'Networking and Regional Cooperation Towards Invasive Alien Species Prevention and Management in Europe', 28–30 March 2017, IBER-BAS, ESENIAS, Sofia, Bulgaria, 168 pp.

ISBN 978-954-9746-42-6

Publisher: Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER-BAS); East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species (ESENIAS)

Photos: Teodora Trichkova, Rumen Tomov, Vladimir Vladimirov, Milcho Todorov, Radim Blažek, Lyubomir Andreev

Photo processing: Lyubomir Andreev

Graphic design and desktop publishing: Rositsa Kaneva, Lyubomir Andreev

Acknowledgements to the ESENIAS Organising and Scientific Committees:

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TOPIC 5: INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

Early detection and rapid eradication, surveillance systems; risk assessment and horizon scanning; control measures; restoration of damaged ecosystems; education, citizen science, strategies, policy and legislation; IAS networks and information systems, databases, data planning and management

Portable LAMP (Loop mediated isothermal AMPlification): New molecular assays to detect invasive plant pathogens

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Plant health emergencies due to invasive quarantine pathogens are increasing in Europe and in other countries. The threat that these pathogens could represent for natural forest ecosystems and urban environments is mainly connected with their possible spread into new areas without susceptible hosts and ecological suitable conditions. Here they could cause huge ecosystem changes and biodiversity losses. In order to contain, prevent and manage environmental and economic damages that these pathogens may cause some specific and sensitive diagnostic tools are necessary. It is recognised that effective plans for both early warning and rapid response are a crucial element of any policy aimed at reducing the impacts of biological invasions or preventing the establishment of pathogens, such as the invasive species. Hence, advantages might be gained by moving testing closer to the site of sampling, thereby reducing delays. PCR-based methods are to date favoured for their high sensitivity and specificity, but they require a well-equipped laboratory for analysing the samples. For this purpose, certain diagnostic assays based on LAMP (Loop mediated isothermal amplification) were developed and optimised on the portable instrument Genie II (Optigene, UK). The assays, based on specific target DNA regions, enable recognising target pathogens with high specificity and sensitivity. Indeed, these assays have shown the ability to distinguish each pathogen with a characteristic melting temperature and to detect DNA in a quantity as low as 0.128 pg/. These results equal to those obtained with the qPCR compared diagnostic assays. Using this method for detecting quarantine pathogens, both on symptomatic and asymptomatic samples, could help in checking imported and exported live plants for planting, thus limiting the uncontrolled spread of invasive pathogens. Furthermore, the great simplicity, sensitivity and specificity, high speed (only 30 min) and the minimum equipment required make the assay ideal for its application in the field and for routine plant testing both in cities and forests.

Key words: Early detection, molecular diagnosis, invasive quarantine plant pathogens detection.



Participants in the 7th ESENIAS Workshop with Scientific Conference 'Networking and Regional Cooperation Towards Invasive Alien Species Prevention and Management in Europe', 28–30 March 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria

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Key areas of support are environmental protection and climate change, research and scholarships, civil society, health and children, gender equality, justice and cultural heritage.



This Book of Abstracts is published with the financial support of:

Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2009-2014
Programme BG03 Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Project: East and South European Network for Invasive Alien Species
– A tool to support the management of alien species in Bulgaria
(ESENIA-TOOLS), D-33-51/30.06.2015

Beneficiary:

Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research,
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IBER-BAS)
<http://www.iber.bas.bg/>

Programme Operator:

Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria
<http://www.bg03.moew.government.bg/>
<http://www.eeagrants.org/>