

EN

P-003438/2026

Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.10.2026)

Toumeyella parvicornis is a scale pest of *Pinus* plants. It initially occurred in North America and spread to Central America, the Caribbean and Europe over the last years. In Europe, it is known to occur in parts of Albania, France and Italy. It is not a regulated pest in the EU.

Thalassa montezumae is a ladybird species native to North and Central America. It was recently found in the Caribbean but is not known to occur in the EU. The Commission does not have information provided by the Italian authorities about a possible release in Italy in the framework of pest control.

The Commission recalls that the placing on the market and use of biological control agents is not harmonised in the EU but remains under the sole competency of Member States. However, the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) is acting as a regional coordinator for biological control agents for its member countries (EU Member States and Non-EU countries of Europe and the Mediterranean region).

In its global database on pest-specific information, the EPPO lists eight species of biological control agents that are available for the control of *T. parvicornis* within the EPPO region¹. This, non-exhaustive list, does not contain *T. montezumae*.

¹ <https://gd.eppo.int/taxon/TOUMPA/bca>.