## THE FOREST CATERPILLAR HUNTER, A HELP FOR PROCESSIONNARY ISSUE ?

France

Oak and pine processionary caterpillars are known for their impacts on human and animals health, and for their forests damages. Those annoyances could become just a souvenir thanks to this colorful insect[2].

Measuring from 21 to 35 mm, the forest caterpillar hunter, *Calosoma sycophanta* can be recognized by its characteristic blue metal color. You can find this predator in oak and pine forests, in the herbaceous stratum or on the trunks.

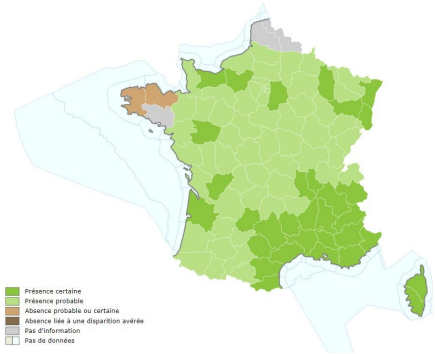
Mostly known to predate the gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, the forest caterpillar hunter has been introduced in Corsica (south of France) in the 20th century in order to fight it. According to the French National Inventory of Natural Heritage (INPN), in 2017, a stock of 141 forest caterpillar hunter presence data was taken. The majority of those data were in the south of France, near the Mediterranean see. In 2019, new observations showed its presence in Île-de-France (north).

**Except its preference for the gypsy moth, the forest caterpillar hunter is also a huge predator of the oak and pine processionary caterpillars.**

Could this beetle become an auxiliary for the regulation of those and reducing their public health and silviculture issues?

Well, if the forest caterpillar hunter 's predation pressure on *L. dispar* is proved, its impact on processionary species populations is difficult to evaluate and is sparsely studied. Especially because it isn't the only factor of regulation of those species… A more systemic research and reporting should allow a better monitoring of the forest caterpillar hunter populations variations.

*Forest caterpillar hunter, Thomas Huntke.*




*Calosoma sycophanta repartition in France, INPN, MNHN & OFB*

## POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS SEEDS : AN INTRODUCTION WAY FOR RAGWEED IN LOW-CONTAMINATED TERRITORIES?

Belgium

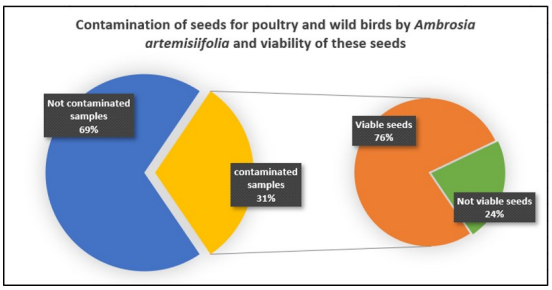
**The Walloon Ragweed Observatory tries to provide answers.**

Although ragweed is not yet widespread in the Walloon Region (Belgium), it is relevant to characterize the ways of introduction of the species in order to curb its progression[3].

In areas where the species is still scarce, **contamination of seeds for poultry and wild birds is suspected to be one of the most important source of ragweed propagation**.

In order to better understand the importance of this introduction pathway, 42 samples of various seed mixtures for poultry and wild birds, from 11 different brands, were collected and analyzed. 2 kg of each mix were sorted, and the results are striking: **nearly one bag out of three (31%) was contaminated with seeds of *Ambrosia artemisiifolia***. Although these contaminations remain within the **quotas of European regulations** (<50mg / kg), **the vast majority (over 75%) of the seeds harvested are viable**.

The presence of ragweed seeds in these widely distributed seed mixes thus represents **an entry point for the plant and can lead to new invasion spot**. It therefore seems necessary to increase **public awareness** and implement practices to curb the spread of ragweed via this type of vector.




### INFORMATION SOURCES


1. **Qian-qian MA & al.** Répartition géographique potentielle d' *Ambrosia trifida* au Xinjiang sous le changement climatique [J]. Acta Prataculturae Sinica, 2020, 29(12) : 73-85.
2. **Meriguet, Bruno & Lepri, Emma. (2018).** Présence de *Calosoma sycophanta* (L., 1758) en Île-de-France (Coleoptera *Carabidae*). 74. 17-21.
3. **A. Delforge ; Z. Etcheverria ; A. Monty**. Walloon Ragweed observatory.


### SHORT NEWS

- ***Ambrosia* in Europe, EMAPI 2019** : go watch our last video interview of Johan Van Valkenburg (**Netherlands**), on YouTube.
- **IRS CONFERENCE** will take place in Budapest on **September the 8th & 9th of 2022**. You can answer for the call of abstracts online : http://internationalragweedsociety.org/irs2022budapest/.



### REDACTION :

Alexandra MARTIN
Marilou MOTTET
Alice SAMAMA

FREDON FRANCE

### CONTACT :

especes-risque-sante@fredon-france.fr

Tél : +33 (0)1 53 83 71 75


Find all the Observatory actions on social medias :

Former Ragweed Obervatory letters can be consulted here