

Invasive deadly pest approaching eastern EU border

Preparing for the worst case scenario

Within EMERALD network, Nordic – Baltic researchers met at the frontline of invasion of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in North-West Russia. During field excursion, participants inspected attacked trees, observed EAB symptoms / ecological impact, discussed biology / ecology of EAB, and planned for future collaborations.



Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis*, is a beetle native to East Asia. It

was first detected in North America in 2002 and since then killed millions of ash trees. In European Russia, EAB was first identified in Moscow in 2003, and proved to be the effective killer of all native European species of ash.

In coming years, EAB was spreading from Moscow westwards and southwards, approaching eastern EU border.

The aim of EFINORD-SNS network was to establish collaboration of north-European researchers tackling potential problems arising with invasion of EAB, initiate interactions for update the situation of geographic spread and impacts of the pest, and elaborate basis for future work to mitigate the effects of eventual invasion of EAB to northern Europe.

In September 2018, twenty researchers from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, UK and Russia travelled to Tver (city between Moscow and StPetersburg), to currently North Western frontline of EAB. The excursion provided the participants the possibility to inspect EAB-attacked trees, record the symptoms, and observe impacts on ecological scale. Mini-symposium was organised, discussing biology/ecology of EAB and planning for future collaborations.



Participants of EMERALD network meeting in Tver, Russia, September 2018.

Photo: Hans Peter Ravn, University of Copenhagen