

PalmerNET: A RESEARCH NETWORK TO JOINT EFFORTS AGAINST THE DEMON WEED

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INTRODUCTION

- PalmerNET (2023-2025): national research network with the aim of coordinating efforts against the expansion of *Amaranthus palmeri* S. Watson, a global invasive weed species in summer crops.
- After being detected in Catalonia (2007), it spread to Aragón and in 2019 the presence was confirmed in Extremadura (close to Portugal); resistance to glyphosate and/or ALS inhibitors is present in these regions. Recently (2023), it was detected in Valencian Community.
- The Universitat de Lleida (UdL) - Agrotecnio coordinates PalmerNET, with the participation of the Universidad Pública de Navarra (UPNA), Universidad de Vigo (UVigo), Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV), Centro de Investigación y Tecnología Agroalimentaria de Aragón (CITA), INIA-CSIC de Madrid and CICYTEX de Extremadura.

OBJECTIVES

- The main objective of this research network is focused on defining and tackle the problem to reach prevention and containment measures at national scale.
- Specific objectives:
 - Dissemination and information exchange
 - Exchange of plant material
 - Determine introduction reasons and associated risks
 - Identify herbicide resistance
 - Identify non-chemical or biological control strategies (p. e. allelopathy)
 - Transfer activities

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES



- Members' meetings: kick-off July 2023 (online), November 2023 (Lleida) with **Aldo Merotto** (Brasil), May 2024 (online), February 2025 (online), and 30th June 2025 (Lleida) with **Franck Dayan** (USA).
- Web page: <https://redpalmer.net/> (in Spanish).
- Dissemination: Maize technical meeting (Castilla y León), social media, webs (Innovagri, Phytoma, AgroCLM, etc.) and newspaper El Segre.
- Congresses: XIX Congress of the Spanish Weed Science Society (SEMh) in Portugal, September 2024; XXV Congress of the Weed Science Society of Latin America in Brasil, August 2024; 9th Resistance Conference in UK, September 2024.
- Dissemination: Maize technical meeting (Castilla y León), social media, webs (Innovagri, Phytoma, AgroCLM, etc.) and newspaper El Segre.
- Publications: 2 articles for the Spanish agricultural journal Vida Rural; supported 3 articles in international journals: a review in Agronomy, an editorial in Weed Research, and a research in Pest Management Science (minor revision).
- Technical meetings with farmers and stakeholders: organization of two, in Merida in June 2025 and online in October 2024; participation in three in Catalonia and Aragon (July, September and November 2024).

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- Promotional video
- Brochure on *A. palmeri* in collaboration with the Comité de Prevención de Resistencias a Herbicidas (CPRH), working group of the SEMh.
- Closing meeting in Autumn 2025

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