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Bruchidius raddianae (Coleoptera: Bruchidae) on Lampedusa; first record in Italy but what about the other European Countries?

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Bruchidius raddianae is an African coleopteran belonging to the subfamily Bruchinae. *B. raddianae* was detected for the first time in Europe from the southern Iberian Peninsula in 2007 and it was earmarked as the 'alien seed beetle'.

The South African acacia, *Vachellia karroo* is a thorny tree considered as both an important ornamental plant in the Iberian Peninsula and as a living fence for its stronge prickly frame. In Spain, this species grows and spreads quickly in wild conditions so that it is considered an invasive species. In Italy, *V. karroo* is reported in some southern regions, namely Puglia, Calabria, Sicily and Sardinia where it is considered naturalised. In October 2015 pods of *V. karroo* acacia collected in Lampedusa Island were found infested by *B. raddianae*. The finding of this coleopteran, reproducing in southern Europe, indicates that this species has crossed the natural barrier that the Mediterranean Sea posed, by using locally available food sources, such as *V. karroo*, which also happens to be imported from Africa. Presently, *B. raddianae* has not been recorded on this acacia in South Africa, its native range. Finally, data about the occurrence of *B. raddianae* in Italy was limited to this first record. Active monitoring and surveying to establish the current distribution of this species should be initiated on scrubs of *V. karroo* around Europe since the distribution of this plant is now widespread in the Mediterranean.

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