Urgent need of rectification of erroneous biological, technical and strategic conceptions to control the RPW

Michel Ferry
INRA/Estación Phoenix
email:ferry.palm@gmail.com

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Suppression, containment and long term eradication strategies of eradication are doomed to fail

- Why?

What is at stake is the preservation of a patrimony not a crop

Public and private patrimony often irrepleceable threatened to disappear definitively if the RPW is not controled very quickly

The famous "Promenade des anglais" in Nice

Palms, especially Phoenix canariensis are the main ornamental species of the Mediterranean coast urban landscape

RPW kills rapidly its more attractive host (Phoenix canariensis) after multiplying quickly in it (4 generations per year. Each female lies 200 to 300 eggs)

Palm killed in less than one year

Time to save this patrimony is counted
Already a disaster in many places

The battle takes place in a peculiar environment

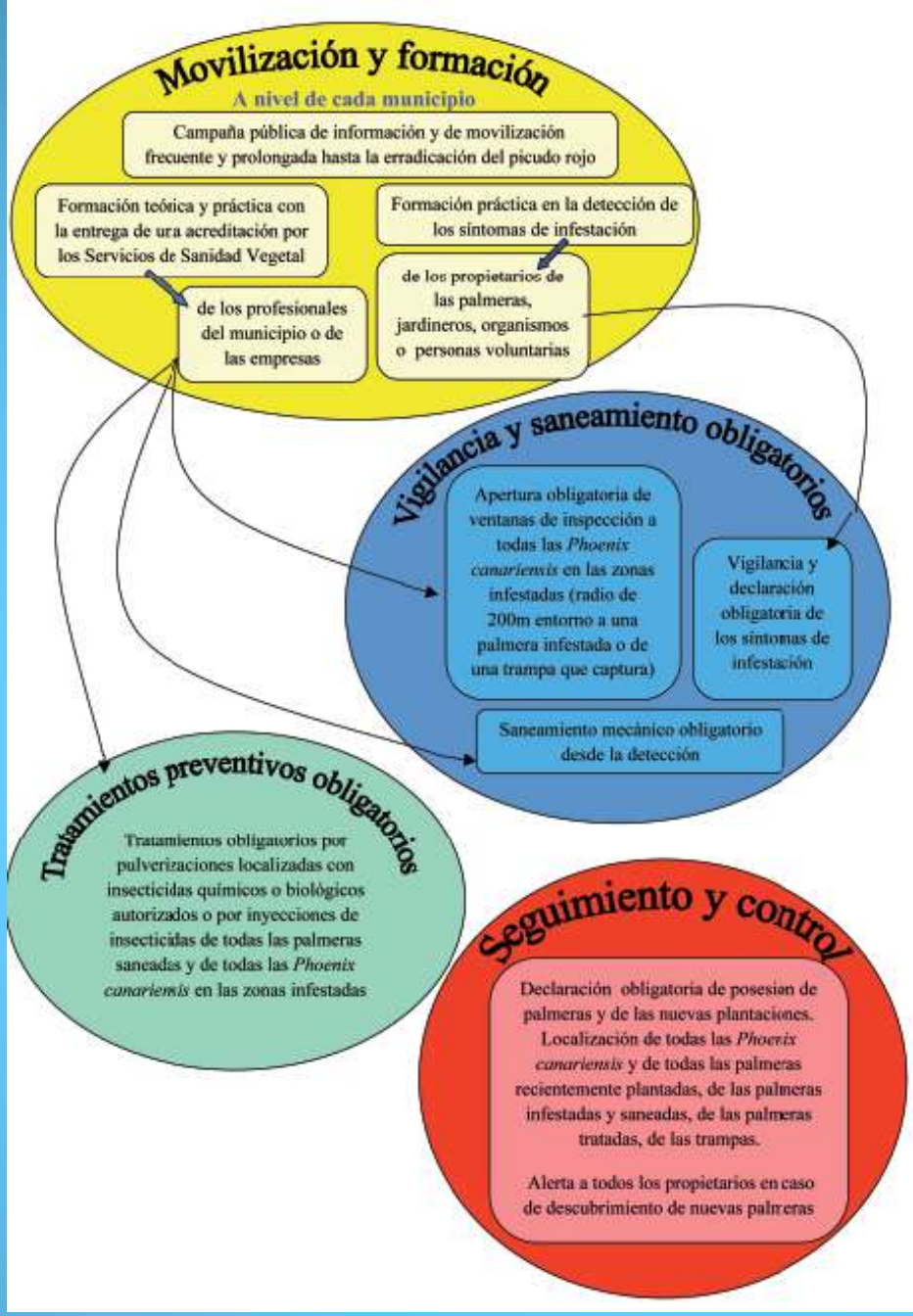
- The urban environment creates serious constraints:
- - public health
- - labour (high trees)
- - great palm ownwers dispersal

- **To maintain for a long time or definitively efficient measures that are difficult to apply and costly (e.g. frequent preventive treatments) is not realistic.**

Without biological barrier, eradication close to an infested place where the pest is not controlled is doomed to fail .

If we want to save the palms patrimony, there is not other solution that to eradicate quickly the RPW. Trying to suppress and contain the pest is wasting money uselessly (same assessment as USDA, 1998 on Anaplophora chinensis).

An efficient integrated eradication strategy based on new innovative techniques has demonstrated that quick eradication is quite feasible



1) We know how to detect early infested palms

- The cliché that it is impossible to detect in time infestation is totally false
- It is linked the wrong conception of infestation modalities of the palms

- Infestation takes place at the basis of the leaves where larvae dig galleries. These damages are inevitably and rapidly detectable (INRA/Phoenix station breakthrough)

- Any person can be trained to detect early infestations

- Creation of inspection windows increases early detection
- The cliché that pruning is dangerous is false and has lead to erroneous measures. Pruning just directs infestation. It does not facilitate it or increase it.
- Pruners are the first to detect infestation.

The cliché that RPW infests the trunk of its main host, the Phoenix canariensis, is erroneous.

- It has lead to very costly (tens of millions of euros) and totally useless measures of palms cutting, transport and grinding

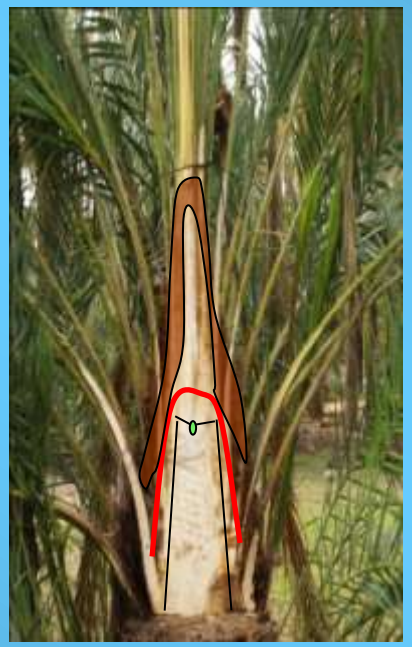
- Cutting and grinding only the infested parts (bases of the leaves and sometimes palm apex) is much more easy and less costly.

- Sanitized trunks can be then treated without any phytosanitary precautions. RPW is not xylophage insect
(INRA/Phoenix station breakthrough)

2) We know how to cure infested palms

- The cliché that infested palms cannot be saved is false: It has lead to disastrous costly and counterproductive regulations

  - Infestation can be detected before larvae reach the terminal bud. The elimination of infested leaves bases allows to eliminate all the weevils and in more than 90% of the cases, the palms recover from this mechanical sanitation (INRA/Phoenix station breakthrough). Nor of its vital parts, terminal bud and trunk, are affected).



The automatic destruction regulation adopted by various PPOs has been useless and very counterproductive

- With this measure, when palms owners and maintenance workers detect infested palms, the PPOs oblige them to destroy them very often at their charge and without compensation.
- Such measure discourage the owners to maintain the vigilance of theirs palms. If, instead of the destruction, the owners are informed that their palms can be saved if they detect the infestation in time, they will be much more interested to control their palms and to communicate infestation symptoms.

- To sanitize instead of eliminating the palms contributes to detect the infestation in time, to stop the pest dispersion and to save a high value patrimony.

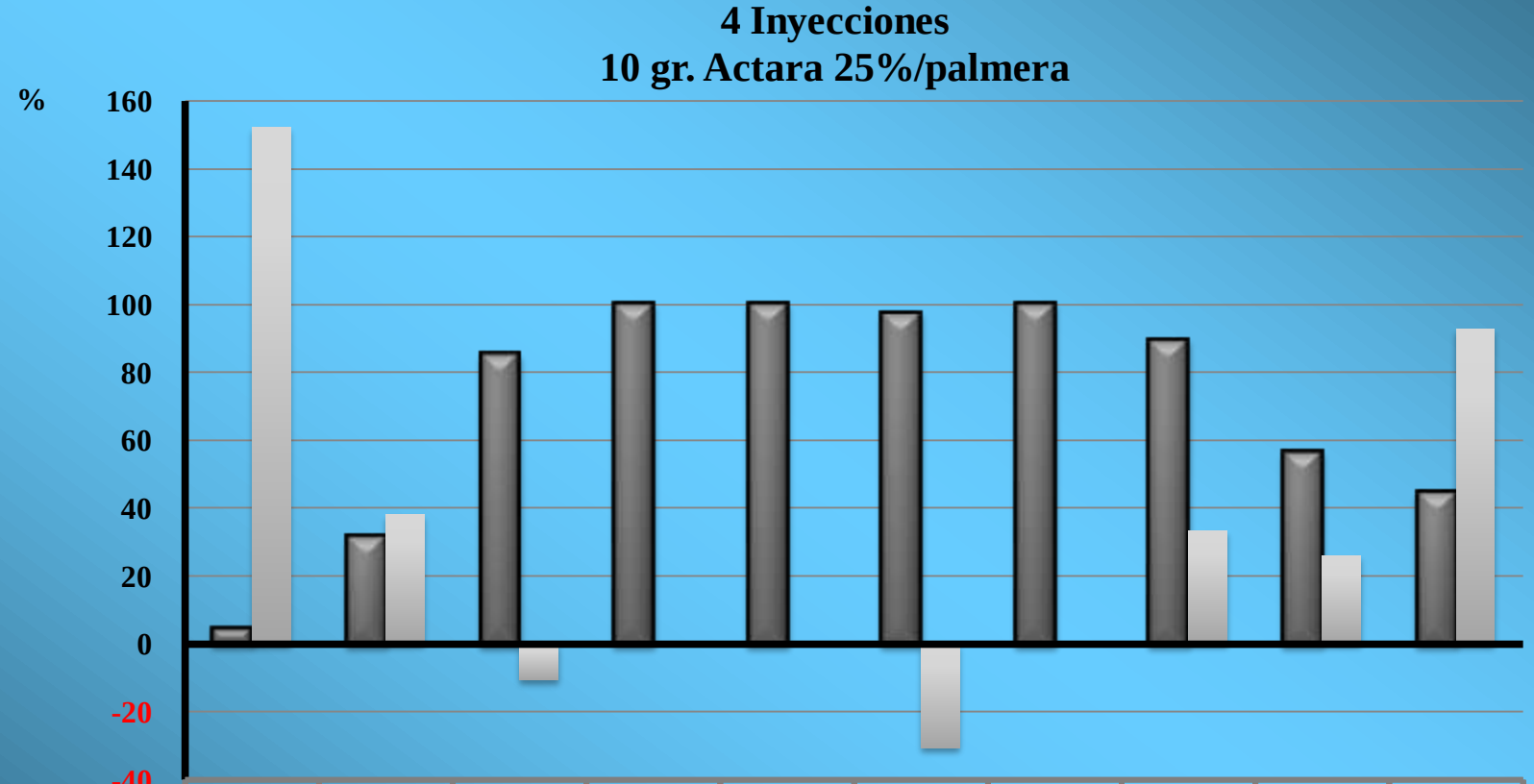
3) We know how to protect healthy palms

- Regular insecticide or nematodes spraying (true shower) to interrupt the pest life cycle.

- Mass trapping

- Systemic insecticide application by irrigation or endotherapy

High efficiency and persistency (up to six months) of preventive treatment by injection (INRA/Phoenix station breakthrough)



	Control (0)	13	33	62	91	121	153	180	210	238
	DÍAS									
Muertas (%)	4,6	31,4	85,0	100	100	97,4	100	89,2	56,3	44,4
peso	152,4	38,0	-10,5	0,0	0,0	-30,6	0,0	33,3	25,9	92,8

4) We have a large experience on awareness and training of palms owners, volunteers, plant protection agents and professionals

Conclusions

- Contrary to what is so often repeated, we dispose of efficient methods for:
- - early detection
- - curative treatments
- - preventive treatments
- Furthermore, comprehensive training modules for professionals have been elaborated and more than 150 professionals have already been trained (Chambre agriculture and INRA)

What is missing?

- The main remaining problems are::
- - appropriate regulation:
  - injection is still forbidden in France
  - New plantation traceability (regulation that obliges to declare all palms planted for less than two years)
  - Change in the quarantine to obtain the full cooperation of the nursery sector (with injection treatment it could be reduced to 6 months)
- Clear determination of the authorities to obtain that the regulation is applied (especially for sanitation)

- Un example of the importance of cooperation: regular control of palms realized by volunteers in Antibes.
- It demonstrates that very infested palms can remain several months without any treatment to stop the pest dispersal.
- It demonstrates also that such controls would allow efficient and low cost systematic working operations of sanitation and detection…if regulation was respected.

N°	Espèce	Hauteur approximative du tronc (en nombre de stipe)	1er passage 20/10/2010			2ème passage 14/12/2010			3ème passage 19/03/2011			Contact avec le propriétaire			Date de plantation si récente	Observations
				Palmiers assainis	Nexiste plus/ charançon		Palmiers assainis	Nexiste plus/ charançon		Palmiers assainis	Nexiste plus	Date lettre type 1 (?)	Date lettre type 2	Contact ou visite		
6	C	5				8			8			20/01/2011				
7	C	10	5			7			7			20/01/2011				
13	C	12	5			8			8			20/01/2011				
14	C	11	8			8			8			20/01/2011				
19	C	9					x			1						
24	C	3					x			1						
26	C	13	4			5				1		20/01/2011				
27	C	11	1 - 2			1 - 2				x		20/01/2011				Assainissement partiel
43	C	4							7							Photo
50	C	5	0			0			0 - 2 ?							Photo
53	C	9	0			0			2					x		Photo - ces palmiers ont été traités 2 fois
54	C	8	0			0			2					x		
64	C	10		x			x			3						
65	C	6		x (?)			x			3						
73	C	3	8					x			x			x		signalement fait en mairie
78	C	10	4					x			x					
79	C	9	0				x			1						
80	C	7		x			x			1						
81	C	10	4				x			1						
83	C	7	5				x			1						
87	C	10								x ?						
93	C	10				5						20/01/2011				
105	C	10					x			3						
107	C	10								3						
108	C	10								3						
112	C	12	6 - 7			8						20/01/2011				
113	C	12	0			0				1						
116	C	10					x									
117	C	10					x			1						
118	C	10					x			1						
119	C	10				6 - 7						20/01/2011				

- Funds are absolutely necessary for helping municipalities and palms owners to apply rapidly and totally short term eradication program.
- Available Funds must be used in priority to implement these action programs.
- Eventually, funding experimentations with very short time expected directly applied results to improve the action programs can be useful but with the existing knowledge and results of research, eradication programs can be perfectly and successfully implemented.
- Expecting a new definitive solution from research constitutes a disastrous myth.

A palm recovering six months after mechanical sanitation

Thank you