## Contents

Contents .......................................................................................................................... 2  
Introduction ..................................................................................................................... 3  
  Coverage ................................................................................................................... 3  
  Map Production .......................................................................................................... 3  
Accessing DMPD ............................................................................................................ 4  
Navigating the interface ................................................................................................... 5  
Simple site searches ....................................................................................................... 6  
  Conducting general site searches .............................................................................. 6  
  Conducting filtered site searches ............................................................................... 6  
Viewing search results .................................................................................................... 7  
Topic pages ..................................................................................................................... 9  
  Refine options .......................................................................................................... 10  
  Distribution maps ..................................................................................................... 11  
MyDMPD ....................................................................................................................... 12  
  Creating a MyDMPD account ................................................................................... 12  
  Combining searches ................................................................................................. 14  
  Saving searches and creating alerts ........................................................................ 15  
  Saving and exporting records .................................................................................. 16  
Appendix A: Search techniques .................................................................................... 18
Introduction

The need for accurate distribution data for plant diseases is so important. Distribution Maps of Plant Diseases (DMPD), first published in 1942, are a respected, referenced source of such data, expertly compiled, validated and used by plant health organizations around the world. The maps provide an essential complement to expanding knowledge on plant disease distribution. DMPD continues to be the most authoritative source of information on the presence and extent of specific plant diseases.

Coverage

DMPD covers important diseases affecting agriculture, horticulture and forestry. Two sets of maps are produced each year, comprising mostly of new maps with a number of map revisions (where significant changes have merited a revision). There are 18 diseases per map set covering fungi, bacteria, viruses and, from 1999 onwards, nematodes. By the end of 2013 the total number of different species mapped in the series was over 1150. The database contains the archive of the Distribution Maps as well as the very latest publications.

Map Production

Behind the simple appearance of a map, and its associated references, lies a complex and detailed piece of research. The aim is simple; to ensure that the published map contains the best and most accurate assessment of the known distribution of a particular organism. Species selection for map production is determined by:

- existence or currency of maps of pests of economic or phytosanitary importance
- recent reports of spread
- new proposals for phytosanitary categorization
- customer feedback
- revised taxonomy which may render old map editions invalid

A thorough quality assurance procedure takes place during production to ensure accuracy and includes:

Primary source materials from reputable providers
Scientific records from peer-reviewed publications on geographic distribution of species are collated from primary sources derived from CAB Abstracts, EPPO and additional partners.

Expert taxonomic verification from subject experts
Subject experts ensure accurate species identification when source searching for distribution data

Expert validation of the data and review
All draft maps are sent to expert validators for review and include the Natural History Museum, London, CABI Bioservices and independent expert consultants. EPPO also review final drafts before production.
Accessing DMPD

DMPD is a web-based interface. To access the site visit www.cabi.org/DMPD

To sign in to the DMPD site click on the button situated in the site menu as shown below:

There are two ways to login to the database depending on the access options your account has:

**By Personal credentials:**

If you requested access to the site by a username and password please enter this in to the login box situated in the top left hand corner of the webpage.

**By IP Address:**

If your institution has a subscription to DMPD and you are accessing through your institutions network, the DMPD platform will recognise your IP address as a registered user and automatically log you on to the site. If you aren’t automatically recognised click the button.
Navigating the interface

The DMPD interface has been designed to enable quick and comprehensive content searches. Below shows an image of the DMPD homepage and the various features displayed.
Simple site searches

DMPD offers a simple site search using a variety of basic search techniques to search content across the whole of the site such as Boolean operators and Phrase searching. These search techniques can be found in the search techniques reference table.

Conducting general site searches

A general site search conducts a search across all the various types of content and topics available on the DMPD site. It will return a broad range of search results that will include all material types from all subject areas. It can be a useful place to begin a search.

To conduct a general site search enter your search terms in to the search box located in the search bar of the home page and click the Search button as shown below:

Conducting filtered site searches

A filtered site search can be used to limit a search to specific categories of organisms. This will return a narrower range of search results and is particularly useful if you are trying to limit searches to particular fields of interest.

To conduct a filtered site search enter your search terms in to the search box located in the search bar of the home page. Click on the filter options to the right of the search box and select the categories you would like to limit the search to. The ✔ indicates which categories have been selected. Below shows the examples for both the subject and content filters:

Once selected click the Search button.
Viewing search results

The returned results will be displayed on the search results page as shown below. The figure below the search box indicates the number of returned results from your search string query. Below this will show any filtered categories that were selected for the search. To remove the filters simply click the × next to the filtered term. The search results are displayed in the box below and can be ordered by most recently indexed first or relevance. At the top and bottom of the search results screen there are also options to vary the number of records displayed on the current page.

Below shows an example of an article header from the returned results. You can see the resource type, the article title, the beginning of the article abstract and further bibliographic information for the record.
When clicked, the article title will take you to the record page listing the full bibliographic details of the record as shown below.

As well as the full abstract the page will also include the full bibliographic information and indexing keywords that were assigned to the record during the indexing process. This can be found under the Abstract details pane on the right of the page.
**Topic pages**

Topic pages enable you to focus searching on particular organism categories. The topic page can be selected from the horizontal menu bar shown in the screen shot below. These topic pages are structured in a similar format as the homepage but only include content items that refer to the selected topic. For example, the screen shot below shows the topic page for bacteria. Therefore the latest content section on the bacteria topic page will only show recent articles that refer to those particular organisms. The green underline in the horizontal topic page menu and the page title indicate which topic page you are currently viewing.

When conducting a search from a topic page, the relevant option is automatically selected from the topic filter section as shown below. This means that any search conducted from the topic page will limit searches to only content relating to that subject.
Refine options

On the right side of the topic page there is a Refine results pane. This allows you to organise the display of the results alphabetically or by recency or relevancy. The refine pane also allows users to refine content even further using the geographic location and year of publication.

Each field is listed in a separate box in the refine results pane. These can be collapsed by using the in the field box header. Blue text indicates the keyword and the bracketed number indicate the amount of records associated to it.

Clicking on a blue keyword conducts a search to return results specific to the selected topic and the relevant keyword from the associated field. For example, below we can see that by clicking on the subject Asia (167) listed in the author field box a filtered search is generated limiting results the author: “plant pests”. This is displayed in the filter display at the top of the results page.
Distribution maps

On each record page the site will also provide a full text article which will link to the distribution map in PDF format. Simply click on the **View full text article** button to view the map. Each distribution map will provide occurrence points to indicate the presence of the plant disease. If the occurrence point displays ✅ the data indicates the disease is present at a national level with no regional distribution specified. However, if ❌ is displayed the regional distribution data for the species has been verified.

Following the maps is a citation list which indicates the references that have been used to plot the occurrence points. The citation list is grouped into global regions with countries listed alphabetically. Each reference used to create the occurrence point on the distribution map will then be listed for each country. Each reference will also be allocated with a distribution status symbol from the following key:

- **X**: Present, no details
- **A**: Present: widespread
- **B**: Present, restricted distribution
- **C**: Present, few occurrences
- **(D)**: Absent, formerly present
- **(E)**: Eradicated
- **(F)**: Intercepted only
MyDMPD

The MyDMPD feature improves search functionality for users allowing users to:

- Combine and save searches
- Save records
- Export citations
- Create Alerts

To gain the full functionality of MyDMPD and for the system to record and recall your searching activity you must be signed in. It is therefore recommended that you sign-in to MyDMPD at the beginning of all your search sessions on the DMPD site.

Creating a MyDMPD account

Before you can access the features of MyDMPD you first need to create an account. Click on the "My DMPD: sign in or register" button in the top-right hand corner of the search box as shown below:

This will direct you to the sign-in page as shown below. The right hand side of the page allows new users to register an account. The left hand side of the page allows users already registered to sign in. Once registered, fill in your unique credentials to sign-in.
Below shows the MyDMPD page. At the top of the display box are the different tabs to display the different types of search activities. By default the display automatically shows the recent searches that you have conducted whilst logged-in to MyDMPD. To the left hand side of the page there is also an option to sign-out or change your account password. To permanently remove a search from your recent search display click on remove button ✗
Combining searches

Combined searches are a useful tool for when compiling long and complex search strings which contain multiple Boolean operators and parentheses. To simplify the process and minimise the chance of input errors this function allows the user to perform two or more separate searches and combine them with either the AND, OR and NOT Boolean operators.

In the example below we can see in the recent search tab two relatively complex searches have recently been conducted. These two have been selected using the checkbox [ ] and the AND Boolean operator has been chosen from the combined search options. You can also see these searches have been filtered to certain criteria as explained previously.

Once your options have been selected perform the search by clicking the button. This will conduct the search and direct you to the results page as shown below. You can see that the search string of the two combined searches is displayed in the search box. By combining this search with the AND operator we have limited the results further but alternatively by using this feature with the OR operator the we can also expand results.
Saving searches and creating alerts

For searches you would like to run on a regular basis, users can save searches for future reference by using MyDMPD. To save a search visit the recent search tab from the MyDMPD page and click on the save search button 📌.
To view your saved searches click on the saved searches tab. The saved searches tab allows the user to conduct a saved search by clicking on the blue search string displayed. For each saved search there is also an option to set up an RSS feed which automatically notifies the user when new records relating to that search string are added to the DMPD site. These notifications can be viewed through all RSS readers such as Microsoft Outlook and Feedly. To find out more about RSS and how to setup an account with an RSS reader read more here. To set up an RSS feed for your search string click on the RSS feed button 📣.

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**Saving and exporting records**

The MyDMPD tool also allows you to save individual article records for future reference and export these to reference management software to create your own bibliographies or reference lists. To save a record to your saved records repository you must first be signed into the MyDMPD tool before conducting searches. When signed in and a search has been conducted each record in the displayed results will have a button associated. Click this button to save the record.
To view your saved records click on the saved records tab. This will display the title of all saved records. To view a specific record, click on the title. Records can be removed individually by using the button. To delete multiple records check the boxes next to the records and click the button as shown below.

Citations can also be exported to reference management software in a RIS file format. To export citations, select the records you would like to be included in the reference list using the checkbox and click the button as shown below.
# Appendix A: Search techniques

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search technique</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Reason to use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single word search</td>
<td>potato</td>
<td>Searches using a single word term</td>
<td>Returns a broad range of results for a particular word/topic</td>
<td>Provides a broad overview of a scientific area of interest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boolean search</td>
<td>potato AND tusarum</td>
<td>Searches using the operators AND, OR and NOT</td>
<td>Performs searches on multiple concepts that provides specific keyword searching for an area of interest that can include or exclude other concepts.</td>
<td>Allows the user to conduct more controlled searching. Can be used to omit homophones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phrase searching</td>
<td>potato AND &quot;czech republic&quot;</td>
<td>Use quotation marks before and after a multiple word phrase</td>
<td>Returns results only containing the entire phrase</td>
<td>Narrows searching to records that only contain the whole phrase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parentheses</td>
<td>(potato AND &quot;czech republic&quot;) NOT France</td>
<td>Searches using keywords, Boolean operators and parentheses.</td>
<td>Used for searches that contain multiple Boolean operators to define the correct search logic</td>
<td>Refines searches with Boolean operators further to provide limited search results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truncation &amp; wild cards</td>
<td>potato*</td>
<td>Uses the symbols * and ? in keyword search</td>
<td>Using the * returns results with different word stems for the root word</td>
<td>The * allows users to broaden results to keywords with differing word stems e.g. pop* = popular, population, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Using the ? symbol allows users to specify unknown characters</td>
<td>The ? returns results using a keyword that may differ in spelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>