

Taxonomy evolves with time, and the nomenclature used for some of the invasive alien species on the Union list becomes outdated, leading to potential confusion and to potential breaches of the IAS regulation (e.g. labelling of species for trade).

The IAS regulation does not specify the approach to take to address changes in taxonomy and nomenclature for IAS of Union concern. The approach that has been followed for making changes when the species name used in the Union list has become outdated and a new name has become widely accepted is to replace the name as part of an Implementing Regulation, those updating the Union list.

In the run-up to a decision on the 4th update of the Union list, as part of a Commission proposal that is expected to be put to the vote in mid-2025, the Commission has been discussing with the Member States the following nomenclature changes:

- (1) In the table of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, "*Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms" is replaced by "*Pontederia crassipes* Mart. (*Eichhornia crassipes* (Mart.) Solms)"
- (2) In the table of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, "*Hakea sericea* Schrad. & J.C.Wendl." is replaced by "*Hakea sericea* Schrad. & J.C.Wendl. s.l."
- (3) In the table of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, "*Pennisetum setaceum* (Forssk.) Chiov." is replaced by "*Cenchrus setaceus* (Forssk.) Morrone (*Pennisetum setaceum* (Forssk.) Chiov.)".
- (4) In the table of the list of invasive alien species of Union concern, "*Tamias sibiricus* Laxmann, 1769" is replaced by "*Tamias sibiricus* Laxmann, 1769 (*Eutamias sibiricus* (Laxmann, 1769))".
- (5) "*Herpestes auropunctatus* Hodgson, 1836 (*Urva auropunctata* Hodgson, 1836)" was included in the Risk Assessment of "*Herpestes javanicus* É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, 1818" and is added to the List of invasive alien species of Union concern.

However, bearing in mind that the replacements above have not yet been officially endorsed, and since the reports to be sent by the Member States by 1st June 2025 under Article 24(1) of the IAS regulation refer to information up to 31 December 2024, for the purpose of such reports, species names to be used shall be those on the Union list on 31 December 2024.