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# Risk assessment of BTV-3 incursion from Sardinia by wind dispersal of Culicoides midges

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- Bluetongue virus (BTV) is a major veterinary public health concern. The BTV serotype 3 (BTV-3) first appeared in 2018 on the island of Sardinia (Italy), at the doorstep of mainland Europe.
- Long-distance wind dispersal of flying vectors is a known pathway of BTV introduction.
- What is the risk of BTV incursion into mainland Europe from Sardinia ?

# **Risk Assessment Model Framework**



## Results

At-risk destinations of BTV incursion Mean risk over study period (W11 to W46) 1 day(s) dispersion scenario

- Mean introduction risk >1 mostly limited to Sicily, southeastern point of Italy and Corsica (1-day dispersion scenario)
- Continental France : mean yearly risk <1, but sporadic weekly risk >1 in spring (June) and autumn (Oct) along mediteranean coast and southwestern region



## Weekly risk estimates – 3 maps to illustrate temporal variations in France

1 day(s) dispersion scenario



## Uncertainty in risk estimates

Areas with at least 75% probability to get a weekly risk >1

## 24-hours dispersion scenario



- High-risk destinations mostly limited to the southern Mediteranean Basin
- But high spatio-temporal variations of weekly risk estimates
- Risk for continental France and Balearic Islands increases as duration of atmospheric simulation increases (2 and 3 days)

Better knowledge about flight conditions of midges and Obsoletusspecific parameters for BTV-3 transmission could improve the model robustness

**Next step:** extend the model to include other introduction pathways

<u>References DOI</u>: <sup>[1]</sup> 10.1175/bams-d-14-00110.1; <sup>[2]</sup> 0.1371/ journal.pone.0053128

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