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UNDERSTANDING & QUANTIFYING THE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES ON AMBROSIA ALLERGY

Climate change foreseen for the next several decades of the 21st century over the European region is expected to alter air pollution and the efficiency of subsequent abatement measures, and may lead to migration of new invasive allergenic plant species. The complex interplay across these multiple stressors might exacerbate the overall effect of environmental change on allergies in synergistic ways that are difficult to assess from a single discipline perspective. It is therefore necessary to develop an integrated and cross-disciplinary approach to assess health risks arising from environmental change and to design suitable adaptation policies.

The main aim of ATOPICA is to establish quantitative models of allergic disease to environmental stressors to be used for projections of future disease risk. The focus is on *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* L. (Asteraceae), commonly called Ragweed, which is a highly invasive plant with pollen that causes allergic disease, increases allergenic sensitiza-

tion and has significant negative impacts on health and quality of life. Since the development of allergies in Europe is currently undergoing rapid growth, there is an urgent need for awareness of invasive plants along with early detection and preventive management initiatives and sustainable strategies to control and reduce this invasive plant.

By gathering an interdisciplinary team of climate and air quality scientists, together with clinicians and biologists, ATOPICA aims to quantify and project the effects of environmental changes on Ambrosia pollen-induced allergic disease in Europe, using a highly interdisciplinary and integrated approach.



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atopic diseases in changing
climate, land use & air quality



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