NOBANIS NEWS
European Network on Invasive Alien Species
Gateway to information on Invasive Alien Species in North and Central Europe

News from the NOBANIS secretariat

There are several new features on the NOBANIS portal

- There is now a feature in the main menu called "events", where you can find all material and recommendations from the recent early warning workshop in Waterford, Ireland in June 2010 http://www.nobanis.org/events.asp

- We have made an invasive species photo bank http://www.nobanis.org/Photos.asp
  If you have photos of invasive species, or related pathways or actions that may be freely available online, please contact the secretariat.

- The first two species alerts for *Procyon lotor* and *Tamias sibiricus* have been send out and posted online http://www.nobanis.org/species%20alert.asp
  National focal points should send a notification to the secretariat if new introduced species are discovered, according to our new pilot projects – see article below.

- All national definitions of invasiveness used in NOBANIS are now online http://www.nobanis.org/Invasiveness.asp

NOBANIS News no. 5 will come out in October 2010. Deadline for sending news to nobanis@sns.dk is September 24th.

Two species alerts were issued in the beginning of July

Two raccoons *Procyon lotor* were caught in Göteborg's harbour June 8th. A third dead raccoon was also found in the area. They are presumed to have entered Sweden with a ship from perhaps Germany. There are plans for searching the area with the help of dogs to find other raccoons that could be present.
For more information please contact Melanie Josefsson, Melanie.Josefsson@naturvardsverket.se

We have now confirmed that *Tamias sibiricus* has at least 1 established population in Denmark. They have been observed in Teglgårdsparken, a bit north of Silkeborg (see map), which is an urban area, where they live in gardens. Apparently they have been here for 5-6 years without being reported. At least 6 individuals has been observed. They are most likely escaped from captivity.
No action has been taken yet, because at the moment the species is not observed to behave invasively and also because there is no legislation in Denmark allowing the administration to catch it on private property. 10-15 years ago, there was another population in Denmark, at the Furesø (see map in the DAISIE fact sheet). Over a few years the population grew to 40-50 pairs and it was decided to eradicate it. Traps were set up, and individuals were shot, which kept the population down, but the eradication was not successful. A few years the population was gone. At the same time there was a growing population of mink in the area.

For more information please contact NOBANIS +45 72542418

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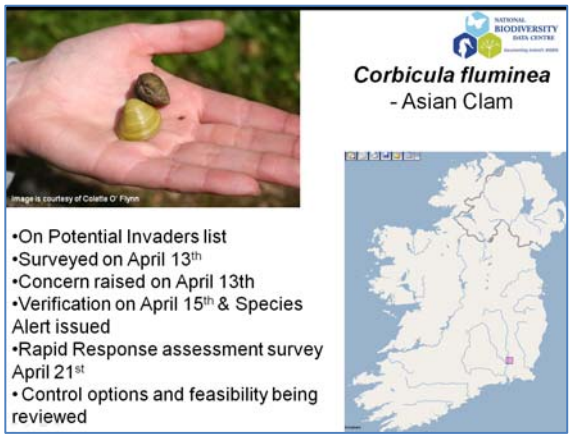

Ireland's most recent Species Alert

Corbicula fluminea (Asian Clam) was the most recent invader (April, 2010). Within two days of its sighting its identity was verified, a species alter issued and within a week a survey to assess its level of establishment was undertaken. Unfortunately it was very well established and this highlights the need to further enhance early detection. Visit the National Invasive Species Database for more information and past species alerts

http://invasives.biodiversityireland.ie

Carpobrotus edulis control and eradication in Ireland

A programme to control and eradicate the invasive species *Carpobrotus edulis* is being carried out in 2010 by the National Botanic Gardens & Fingal Co. Council. Control of the species is currently underway in the east of the country in an EU protected Habitat 1230 "Vegetated Sea Cliffs" – status considered currently poor in Ireland.

Towards an early warning and information system for invasive alien species (IAS) threatening biodiversity in Europe

The European Environment Agency has published a new report on early warning in June 2010 written by P. Genovesi, R. Scalera, S. Brunel, D. Roy, and W. Solarz.

The aim of report is:

• To identify gaps in early warning and rapid response at the pan-European scale;
• To identify priorities for improving the ability of European Member States to respond rapidly to new incursions;
• To propose a set of options to bridge the existing constraints and gaps in the response to invasive alien species in Europe.

The report has five main chapters:
1. Rationale for an early warning and rapid response system for invasive species,
2. Structure of a European early warning and rapid response framework,
3. Information system,
4. Organisational aspects of a European EWRR framework,
5. Future options for a European EWRR framework and dedicated information system.

Read the report at www.eea.europa.eu/publications/information-system-invasive-alien-species/

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NOBANIS pilot projects for an Early Warning system

The report "Assessment to support continued development of EU strategy to combat invasive species" will be completed in August, and will be followed by a “Stakeholder consultation on the future EU Strategy on Invasive Species” September 3rd, and we would like to take advantage of our opportunity to influence the process and show the EU Commission that NOBANIS is an option to build on. Because of the tight timeframe, we decided rather to test one or two smaller pilot projects - to describe the different elements of an EW system - than to try to build a complete EW system. We hope to be able to present preliminary results within a few months.

We decided on starting the following 2 pilot projects immediately:

(1) Email alert
This pilot project will test how an Early Warning by email work, and will also identify gaps, new best practices and issues to improve or change.

- The 19 NOBANIS countries are to send species alerts with minimum details to the NOBANIS secretariat. The countries individually determine when to send an alert, but new arrivals only
- A high priority alert email is sent out from the NOBANIS secretariat to the NOBANIS network (the steering group)
- The steering group will pass the message on to other relevant national authorities and stakeholders
- The “species alert” will be put online for 2 weeks on the front page of NOBANIS, www.nobanis.org
- After the 2 week period, the alert will be put in an “alert archive” with direct access from front page menu.
- The costs (work load) for this project are estimated for each country.

(2) IAS risk mapping in Europe
This pilot project will focus on the production of maps to identify endangered areas due to IAS establishment and spread. It will be tested using 28 detrimental non native species, already established in terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats within the NOBANIS area. The objectives of the project are as follows:

- to produce maps showing the current distribution of the 28 species in Northern, Western and Central Europe,
- to assess if the limits of species distribution match those of biogeographic areas in Europe as defined by the European Environmental Agency
- to map the risk of non-native species establishment on that basis and to identify risk areas where they are not yet reported but are likely to be established in the near future (i.e. existing gaps within biogeographic areas),
- to build alarm lists on a country basis using risk maps as defined in previous point (warning tool for future establishment of detrimental species),to estimate the costs (work load) for this project for each country. To reach that goal, all NOBANIS countries will gather information about the 28 species within the different bioclimatic areas. Risk maps will be distributed for national use.

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Identification key to marine invasive species in Nordic waters

On May 25, 2010 we launched an “Identification key to marine invasive species in Nordic waters” on the NOBANIS portal.

The key is a Nordic project based on expert taxonomic knowledge. It is aimed at users in management of invasive species and marine biodiversity who are not trained taxonomists, but it can be useful to anyone with an interest in marine life.

The key guides the user through simple "Yes or No" questions to separate species that are then further described in illustrated fact sheets. The fact sheets are based on state-of-the-art taxonomic information, updated distribution data, and pertinent information on ecology and impacts, and there are links to further information on other web-sites. The usual student identification keys cover only one group of species, e.g., snails or crabs, but the present key covers all the animal phyla that are represented by invasive species in Nordic or adjacent waters.



The key covers the marine invertebrates and fish presently known to be introduced in Nordic waters. However, Nature is dynamic and new species continue to appear. Therefore the key has been designed to permit addition of information on new species arriving in the region.

Keys and fact sheets have been written by Dr. Kathe R. Jensen and the web-version has been generated in collaboration with an expert network from institutions in the Nordic countries, the Danish Forest and Nature Agency and the Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning, both under the Danish Ministry of the Environment. Funding has been provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers.

NOBANIS secretariat: +45 72542418 or nobanis@sns.dk
Kathe R. Jensen: krjensen@snm.ku.dk

New article with NOBANIS involvement

Recently, a PNAS-paper appeared (out of the DAISIE-project), with NOBANIS–people involved (Franz Essl, Wolfgang Rabitsch, Wojciech Solarz). The title is “*Disentangling the role of environmental and human pressures on biological invasions”,* and it reports that socioeconomic drivers of biological invasions like Gross National Income or Wealth are more important than environmental factors, such as climate or land cover. Link: http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2010/06/02/1002314107.full.pdf

IXth European Congress of Entomology, Budapest, Hungary, 22-27. August, 2010

This conference has also an "Invasive species" session http://www.ece2010.org

LIFE project in the Czech Republic

The project: ”Preservation of alluvial forest habitats in the Morávka river basin“ is implemented by the Moravian-Silesian Region in cooperation with partners. It is financially supported by the EU LIFE-Nature program. The main aim of the project is to preserve alluvial forest habitats in the Morávka river basin, threatened by invasive *Fallopia* (Reynoutria) spp. One of goals of the project is to create an efficient methodology of invasive species cotrol and subsequent revitalization of the affected habitats.
Results of the project will be presented at the conference on 22 -23 September 2010. More information on: www.life-moravka.cz

Neogobius melonostomus in Sweden

The round goby *Neogobius melonostomus* was discovered in Göteborg's harbour in May. It has most probably been transported there in ballast water. The round goby was discovered in the waters of Karlskrona in the Baltic in summer 2008. A two year project with sampling in the area to determine the number and extent of the invasion was initiated in 2008. In the summer of 2009 seven round gobies of various sizes and ages were found around Karlskrona. The project will continue in 2010.

Castor canadensis in Belgium

There is now American/Canadian beavers *Castor canadensis* in the Walloon region of Belgium. They escaped from a zoo in Germany and crossed the border to Luxembourg and Belgium. Eradication projects are ongoing there. European beaver has been reintroduced illegally and causes even more damage although it is originally native. The two species are difficult to distinguish.

Photo from the Wikimedia Commons,
Photographer: Cheryl Reyndolds, Worth a Dam

2nd World Conference on Biological Invasions and Ecosystem Functioning

2nd World Conference on Biological Invasions and Ecosystem Functioning November 21-24 2011, Mar del Plata, Argentina Grupo de Investigación y Educación en Temas Ambientales (GrIETA) is delighted to announce that the 2nd World Conference on Biological Invasions and Ecosystem Functioning (BIOLIEF 2011) will take place on November 21-24 2011, in Mar del Plata , Argentina.
See http://www.grieta.org.ar/biolief/

The first BIOLIEF meeting, held at Porto, Portugal on October 2009, featured renowned international speakers and gathered an attendance of nearly 300 people from more than 20 countries (www.ciimar.up.pt/biolief/).

Abstracts and Registration: Instructions for registration and abstract submission will soon be provided. Join our mailing list. To be included on the BIOLIEF mailing list please email biolief@grieta.org.ar including your name and organization

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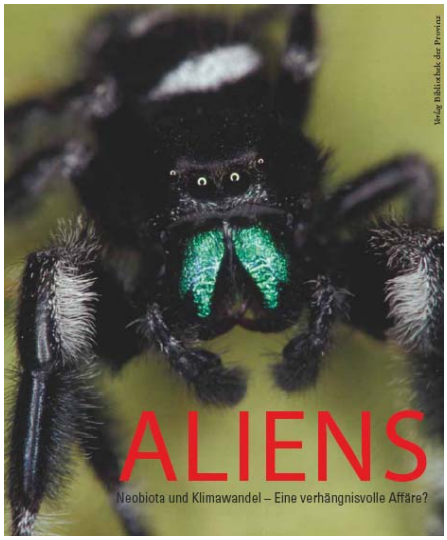
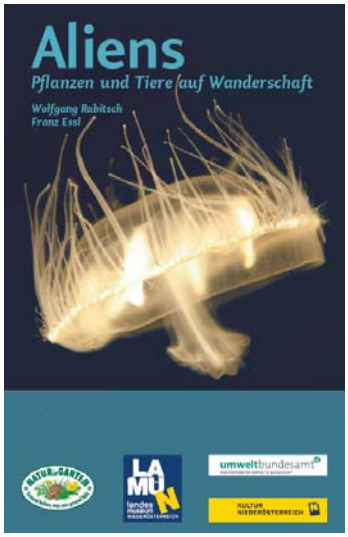
Alien species at the Natural History Museum in Austria

The Environment Agency Austria (Umweltbundesamt) developed and organized an exhibition on alien species for the Natural History Museum in St. Pölten, the capital of Lower Austria. On more than 500 qm exhibition space several aspects of biological invasions are shown and explained to a wider audience. The different pathways and impacts are presented with a focus to the situation in Austria, but also case studies from Europe and other continents are included as well as examples of European species being alien elsewhere. The main part of the exhibition highlights selected examples of alien species in Austria, partitioned (in terms of content but also from an architectural perspective) into natural groups (e.g. plants, aquatic animals, invertebrates, vertebrates). Further, aspects such as climate change, health and management issues are discussed.
The exhibition is accompanied by two brochures. The “adult” version (88 pp.) includes most of the text and pictures of the exhibition; the “children” version (52 pp.) describes biological invasions for the young reader and includes games and riddles. Within the exhibition, a special room is devoted as “playground” for children with thematic games and puzzles and playthings. In addition, a scientific book was edited devoted to alien species and climate change (160 pp.). All materials are in German language.
Since the opening in March 2010 there was good media coverage and the exhibition is on display until February 2011, when it may move on to be shown at another museum (under negotiation).





Both publications (brochure 3,50 Euro, catalogue 25,00 Euro excl. porto) can be ordered at the Landesmuseum Niederösterreich, St. Pölten, shop@landesmuseum.net

The children brochure is freely available as a PDF http://www.landesmuseum.net/zwischenordner-fur-downloaddateien/aliens-kinderbroschure.pdf

Parasitic sea anemone larvae in *Mnemiopsis leidyi*

Researchers at the Department of Marine Ecology at the University of Gothenburg have been following the invasion of the American comb jellyfish, Mnemiopsis, for several years. They have discovered that the jellyfish contains larvae from a sea anemone that lives on it as a parasite.
The sea anemone is identified as *Edwardsiella sp*., which is common in the comb jellyfish's natural environment in the West Atlantic, but has not previously been found in Swedish waters or anywhere else that the comb jellyfish has spread to. The sea anemone's larvae live as parasites on the jellyfish. The parasites cause skin irritation in humans when they come into contact with human skin. The researchers believe these parasites may become problematic for Swedish sea bathers.
"The American variety of the sea anemone causes a skin complaint known as sea bather's eruption, which doesn't generally require treatment, but takes the form of quite a nasty rash that lasts for a few days," says researcher Erik Selander. "But the anemone we have found is confusingly similar to a Swedish anemone called Edwardsiella carnea, and we won't know, which of the two species it is, or whether there actually are two species involved, until we have carried out further genetic analysis. If it is the American Edwardsiella that has come here, we could see isolated cases of sea bather's eruption here in Sweden too as we move towards autumn."
Read more here: http://www.read-news.info/tag/edwardsiella/