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

No 7, April 2013

In this issue of NOBANIS NEWS

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News from the NOBANIS secretariat

About the database

The NOBANIS database is being updated regularly with the latest data added April 4th. Currently, there are 9,511 species in the NOBANIS database from our 20 participating countries, registered in a total of 18,710 records.
Doing a little data mining, we can see that the most widespread species a little surprisingly are the Canada goose and Canadian waterweed:

Registered in 18 countries:	Canada goose *Branta Canadensis*
	Canadian waterweed *Elodea Canadensis*
Registered in 16 countries:	Rugosa rose *Rosa Rugosa*
Registered in 15 countries:	Ashleaf Maple *Acer negundo*
	Warty-cabbage *Bunias orientalis*
	Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*
	Himalayan balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*
	Small balsam *Impatiens parviflora*
	Garden lupin *Lupinus polyphyllus*
	Mink *Neovison vison*
	Muskrat *Ondatra zibethicus*
	Canadian Goldenrod *Solidago Canadensis*
Registered in 14 countries:	Giant hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum*
	Monkey flower *Mimulus guttatus*
	Sweet Cicely *Myrrhis odorata*
	Raccoon dog *Nyctereutes procyonoides*
	Rainbow trout *Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Registered in 13 countries:	Red-root amaranth *Amaranthus retroflexus*
	Common Ragweed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*
	Eel swimbladder nematode *Anguillicola crassus*
	Canadian Horseweed *Conyza canadensis*
	Zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*
	Jerusalem artichoke *Helianthus tuberosus*
	Northern red oak *Quercus rubra*
	Black Locust *Robinia pseudoacacia*

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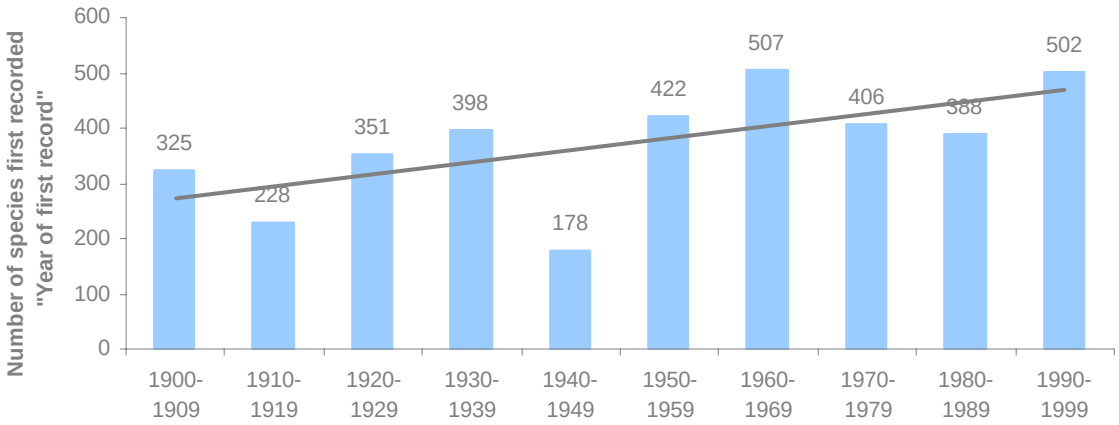
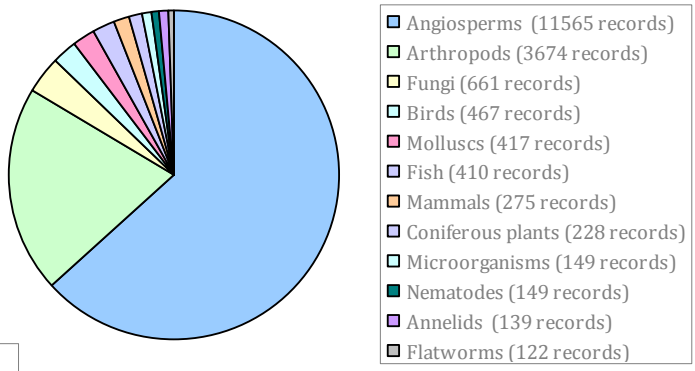
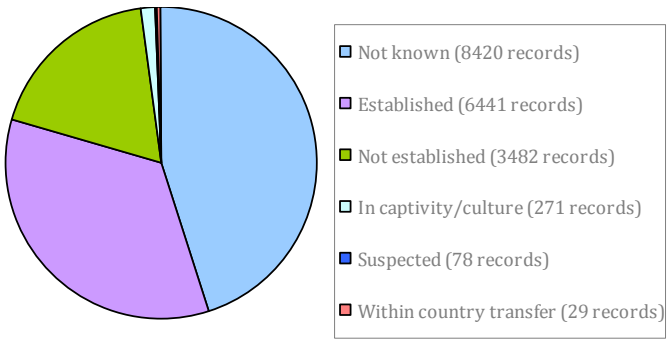
When looking at the development in the annual number of species recorded in the NOBANIS database, it looks like it is increasing a little bit (see figure below), perhaps not as much as expected. Only 366 records are registered to 2000 – 2010, possibly reflecting the fact that there can be a delay from discovery to national registering. We have only data about "Year of first record" for 6,810 records out of the 18,710, so there is still room for improvement.



The species are registered in 24 groups in the database, where angiosperms account for 62% of the records, arthropods for 20% and the rest of the groups for less than 5% each. We have 34% of our records listed as "Established", 19% as "Not established" and 1% as "in captivity/ culture", but still status are unknown for 45% of the records in our database (see figure below).





We have just started a revision process, which will run through 2013, aiming at homogenizing and standardizing the data even more and filling in gaps.

The NOBANIS photo bank is expanding

The photo bank at the website is frequently expanding and now contains photos of 40 species and 8 pathways of introduction. We thank everyone who have contributed with photos and are still interested in receiving photos of species, pathways and of actions taken on IAS. If you have photos we can use please send them to nobanis@nst.dk.

Revised and new NOBANIS fact sheets

We have now almost finalized the revision process of all our NOBANIS fact sheets and updated versions of them all are uploaded to our website. Thank you very much to all the authors and national experts who have contributed by sharing their knowledge!!
Also, we have converted all the species fact sheets written by Kathe Rose Jensen to the Marine Identification Key to NOBANIS fact sheets, and they are now to be found together with the other fact sheets – thus taking us to a total of 97 fact sheets with detailed information about some of the worst IAS in our region.

See the 97 NOBANIS fact sheets

Other invasive news

BirdLife Partnering to battle invasive species

The BirdLife Pacific Partnership has started a new four-year European Union funded regional Invasive Species programme which seeks to reduce the spread and the environmental and socio-economic impact of invasive alien species by supporting the eradication and control of invasive alien species and also enhancing biosecurity.
BirdLife Partners involved in the programme are *Te Ipukerea Society* (Cook Islands), *Palau Conservation Society*, *NatureFiji-MareqetiViti*, *O Le Si'osi'omaga Society Inc.* (Samoa), *Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie* (French Polynesia) and *Société Calédonienne d'Ornithologie* (New Caledonia).
The Programme is also supported by a Technical Advisory Group which recently met in Auckland and includes the Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII), the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme, University of the South Pacific, NZ Landcare Research and the NZ Department of Conservation.
The meeting finalised project activities which include eradicating rodents (in French Polynesia, Palau, and the Cook Islands) and controlling pigs and deer (in New Caledonia) within areas of high conservation value. In Fiji the programme will develop biosecurity models targeting the non-native American Iguana, mongoose and the Brown Tree Snake.
The meeting also identified the capacity, research, and monitoring needs for the programme. Among the research opportunities include support for a post graduate student to examine the social, economic and or biological impact of managing invasive alien species or related element of the programme.

See more on birdlife.org

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UK bans sale of five invasive non-native aquatic plants

Five invasive non-native aquatic plant species are to be banned from sale in a new law, which is expected to come into force in April 2014. The banned plants are

1) Water Fern (*Azolla filiculoides*)
2) Parrot's Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*)
3) Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)
4) Australian Swamp Stone-crop (*Crassula helmsii*)
5) Water Primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora, Ludwigia uruguayensis* and *Ludwigia peploides*)

Invasive non-native species can have a devastating cost to the economy, costing £1.7 billion to control. Floating pennywort, which can grow up to eight inches a day, costs the British economy £23.5 million per year. Environment minister Richard Benyon said:
"Tough laws to curb the sale of these plants could save the country millions of pounds as well as protecting wildlife such as fish and native plants. "But as well as saving money and protecting wildlife the ban will also help maintain access to rivers and lakes for anglers and watersport fans."
In the past the plants have been sold and planted in garden ponds, but have escaped into the wild taking over from native species and damaging some of our most sensitive habitats.
The plants form dense mats in water, depleting oxygen and light availability, causing declines in the numbers of fish and other aquatic species. They also reduce access to waterways for boating and angling and increase flood risk which, taken together, can cost millions of pounds per year.
The ban means that all retailers will now have to stop selling these plants or face a fine of up to £5,000 and possibly up to six months in prison. Retailers have a year to adjust to the ban.

See more on bbc.co.uk

European Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and Aquaria on Invasive Alien Species

The Bern Convention and the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) of the IUCN, in collaboration with the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) have developed the European Code of Conduct for Zoological Gardens and Aquaria on Invasive Alien Species (IAS). This document is in line with the current European policy on IAS according to which the identification of pathways and the implementation of best practices and voluntary measures to prevent the threats posed by IAS are recognised as critical issues.
The code has been formally approved at the last Standing Committee meeting of the Bern Convention on 30 November 2012. At the same meeting the Standing Committee also adopted the Recommendation No.161 (2012) to invite all contracting parties to implement the code. The development of this code has been also formally acknowledged at the recent CBD COP11 at Hyberabad.

Download the Code of Conduct

"If you can't beat 'em, eat 'em"

We're not just eaters anymore. We're omnivores or vegetarians or vegans or locavores or… invasivores? Invasivore is a new movement or microtrend under the trend locavore, recommending eating invasive plant and animal species. So if you want to combat invasive species… be trendy and eat them! Invasivores seek the environmental benefits of their eating habits. Like a locavore that chooses locally grown food so that a minimum amount of energy is used to transport it, an invasivore chooses some of his foods to lessen the devastation that invasive species do to the local environment. Both types of eaters are motivated by their environmentalism.

Article in New York Times: A Diet for an Invaded Planet- Invasive Species
Eat the invaders.org
Invasivore.org

Killer Fennel/Fennel Killer Molasses Cookies (from eattheinvaders.org)
- *Foeniculum vulgare* is found in AT, DE, DK, LV, NO and SE!

Step 1: Collect and candy fennel.
Tender fennel stems and green immature seeds can be candied and used with this recipe. Tender fennel stems can be collected from plants when they are in the "bolting" phase as long as stems snap easily when bent. Stems should be peeled and chopped finely. Stems have a much milder anise (licorice) flavor than seeds. Add approx 1/2 cup sugar to 2 cups chopped fennel stems in a sauce pan and add just enough water to cover mixture. Simmer sugar and water until the majority of the liquid has evaporated and mixture is thick enough to not drip from a spoon. If using fennel seeds, add the same ratio of sugar to seeds but use 1/4 as much of the candied fennel in the final cookie recipe

Ingredients
3/4 cup margarine, melted
1 cup sugar
1 egg
1/2 cup molasses
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking soda
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp ground cinnamon
2 cups candied fennel
1/2 tsp ground cloves

Directions
In a medium bowl, mix together the melted margarine, 1 cup sugar, and egg until smooth. Stir in the molasses. Combine the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, and cloves; blend into the molasses mixture and candied fennel. Cover and chill dough for 1 hour.
Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Spread dough on smooth, floured surface and roll fairly thin with rolling pin.
Cookies should be approx 8 cm in diameter. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes. Candied fennel burns easily so be sure to check cookies at 6 to 8 minutes and remove if they appear to be burning.

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Golden jackal – a new alien species in Estonia

The golden jackal (*Canis aureus*) is a native species in Europe, being present in the Balkans, but there is long way from the Balkans to the Baltics!
In the end of February 2013 young female golden jackal was killed during a hunt in Matsalu National park, West-Estonia. As the species of this strange animal was unknown to the local hunters, the specimen was given to scientists for examination. Based on overall size and the appearance of the animal, as well as scull and paw characteristics the animal was determined to be golden jackal.

The killed golden jackal, photo by Peep Männil.

The origin of this jackal is unknown but the most probable cause is escape or release from confinement. There are no jackals in Estonian zoos, so the origin of the animal seems to be private ownership. Local people believe that there are more of them in the wild, as there has been distinct jackal like howling after the female was killed, this is one of the questions which need answers.

The Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* is now very rare in Denmark due to UK efforts

The Rarity Committee of BirdLife Denmark has decided to put the Ruddy duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* back on the rarity list from Jan 1st 2013. The Ruddy duck was on the rarity list until 1990, where the species became more common in Denmark, and it was removed from the list. In 2006 and 2007 one breeding pair was observed in Denmark. There were, however, fewer observations after 2000, with only one registration of one bird from 2010-2013 in BirdLife Denmark's database (see DOFbasen – In Danish), and now it has been decided that the species is so rare that it is back on the list.

The ruddy duck is native to North and Middle America and was introduced into private wildfowl collections in the UK in the 1940s. It subsequently escaped and formed wild populations, and following spread to other parts of Europe. Since the mid 1960s, the Ruddy duck numbers increased rapidly in the UK to estimated 5946 wintering birds in January 2000.

The ruddy duck is registered in the NOBANIS database in 8 countries (AT, DE, DK, IS, NL, NO, PL, and SE). In southern Europe it is threatening the white-headed duck *Oxyura leucocephala*. The two species hybridise readily, with the ruddy duck apparently possessing the competitive advantage. The ruddy duck is was recognised as the most significant threat to the white-headed duck and the UK appears to be the main source of birds reaching mainland Europe (read article about this).
The decreasing numbers of Ruddy duck registered in Denmark is believed to be due to the successful eradication projects in the UK. The eradication efforts in UK resulted in a 95% reduction in the Ruddy Duck population by 2010.

Read the Newsletter from the BirdLife Denmark Rarity Committee

BirdLife Denmark

New reports on IAS

Invasive alien species indicators in Europe - a review of Streamlining European Biodiversity (SEBI) Indicator 10

To support the 'Streamlining European 2010 Biodiversity Indicators' (SEBI 2010) process, the European Environment Agency (EEA) commissioned a study to revisit and further develop the indicator 'Invasive alien species in Europe'. The aim of the current project is to critically review and improve this indicator, and propose an updated methodology. Further, options for methodologies of new indicators, which monitor IAS over time across Europe, will be discussed. Particular attention is given to closely linking the indicator(s) to recent biodiversity policy goals and developments.

Download the report

Risk assessment of non-native and invasive species in Ireland

A new report is available that details the invasive species risk assessment system for Ireland and Northern Ireland. The report titled: *Risk analysis and prioritisation – for invasive and non-native species in Ireland and Northern Ireland* details the risk assessment and prioritization process developed and presents some of the main results.
Two risk assessment processes are addressed in the report:
The first is the **prioritisation risk assessment**. This assessment is key to understanding the relative risk associated with a larger array of species. This assessment is required primarily for prioritisation and informing decisions that do not have an impact on trade. The prioritisation risk assessment was carried out for 377 non-native species recorded in Ireland and 342 non-native species not known to present in Ireland. These species were assessed, scored and ranked into impact categories of high, medium and low.
The second assessment is essentially **a more detailed assessment** of the risks and uncertainties surrounding a particular species, group of species or pathway of concern. The purpose of this risk assessment is to gather additional information on a particular species of concern when there is an identified need to do so. This will be used, where required, for the purpose of supporting any trade restrictions. It is important to note that undertaking a detailed risk assessment will not necessarily result in trade restrictions.

Download the report

The impacts of invasive alien species in Europe

Biological invasions are one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss. Invasive alien species (IAS) may have far-reaching and harmful effects on the environment and natural resources for generations. The purpose of this report is to raise awareness among key stakeholders, decision-makers, policymakers and the general public about the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of IAS. Twenty-eight dedicated species accounts are provided to highlight the various types of impacts. These species accounts are based on thorough, up-to-date scientific information from recent research and studies, and highlight the multifaceted impacts of IAS at both the global and regional levels.

Download the report

The economic cost of invasive and non-native species in Ireland and Northern Ireland

The Invasive Species in Ireland initiative has just published Ireland's first report on the economic cost of invasive and non-native species in Ireland and Northern Ireland. €261 million is the current estimated annual cost of invasive and non-native species to Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Download the report

Assessing and controlling the spread and the effects of common ragweed in Europe

Common ragweed *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* is a non-native species which is highly invasive across Europe and has harmful impacts on a range of sectors, especially human health and agriculture.
This project had the aim to synthesise and systematically review information, highlight knowledge gaps and utilise modern modelling methods to achieve: an understanding of the current extent of ragweed infestation in Europe; economic, social and environmental quantification of direct and indirect harmful effects in all sectors; assessment of measures to control ragweed spread and introduction (now and in future climates); and the dissemination of accurate and up-to-date scientifically-based evidence to stakeholders.

Download the report

Meetings and congresses

18th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species - ICAIS 2013

April 21-25, Sheraton-on-the-falls, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada

The Invasive Species Centre is hosting the 18th International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species that will be held in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.
This conference series is widely considered the most comprehensive international forum on aquatic invasive species and continues to evolve to address new and emerging issues.

Sessions and presentations include the review of accumulated scientific knowledge; presentation of the latest field research; introduction of new technological developments for prevention, monitoring and control; discussion of policy and legislation; and mechanisms to raise awareness with the general public through education and outreach initiatives.
In recent years the conference has typically involved over 300 participants from over 30 countries, representing academia, industry, government agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders involved in the issues. Many are seeking opportunities for international cooperation and collaboration to address AIS issues from a global perspective.

Read more and see preliminary programme

Kick-off meeting for the new COST action: European Information System for Alien Species

May 2 2013, 9:30-17:00, COST Office premises, the "Auditorium" , 15th Floor of the Generali-Tower, Brussels.

This is the 1st Management Committee Meeting (=Kick-off Meeting) of this COST Action.

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) threaten biodiversity, society, human-health, well-being and the economy. The economic impact to Europe is estimated 12.5 to 20 billion EUR (annually). Europe has committed to tackling IAS through Target 5 of the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 which is in line with target 9, COP 10 Decision X/2; an information system is a prerequisite to meet strategy through effective early warning and rapid response for prevention and control of IAS. Initiatives to collate information on IAS have resulted in the development of many databases differing in their geographic, taxonomic and ecological coverage. There are a number of constraints that might limit the effective use of existing databases: data obsolescence, lack of interoperability and uncertainties for long-term sustainability of the various tools.

This COST Action will facilitate enhanced knowledge gathering and sharing through a network of experts, providing support to a European IAS information system which will enable effective and informed decision-making in relation to IAS. An overarching priority will be to identify the needs and formats for alien species (AS) information by different user groups and specifically for implementation of EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy. Correspondingly early warning tools and rapid response protocols will be developed.
There are now 22 parties registered for the COST Action on IAS. If your country is not registered then please do contact the nominated COST officer within you country.

Read more about the COST action on invasive species here

COST Participants

Country	MC Member	MC substitute
Austria	Dr Franz ESSL	Dr Wolfgang RABITSCH
Belgium	Dr Sonia VANDERHOEVEN	Dr Quentin GROOM
Bulgaria	Dr Teodora TRICHKOVA	
Bulgaria	Prof Rumen TOMOV	
Cyprus	Dr Angeliki MARTINOU	
Cyprus	Prof Spyros SFENDOURAKIS	
Czech Republic	Dr Jan PERGL	
Estonia	Dr Jesse M. KALWIJ	
Finland	Mr Harry HELMISAARI	
France	Dr Alain ROQUES	
Germany	Dr Ingolf KUHN	
Germany	Dr Annette HERZ	
Greece	Dr Argyro ZENETOS	Dr Ioannis BAZOS
Greece	Prof Margarita ARIANOUTSOU-FARANGITAKI	Dr Konstantinos TSIAMIS
Hungary	Dr Jozsef FAIL	Dr Andras BOZSIK
Hungary	Dr Gabor VETEK	
Ireland	Ms Colette O'FLYNN	Dr Dan MINCHIN
Ireland	Dr Frances LUCY	
Israel	Dr Bella GALIL	
Italy	Dr Giuseppe BRUNDU	Dr Alberto SANTINI
Italy	Prof Andrea VANNINI	Dr Elena TRICARICO
Malta	Prof Patrick J. SCHEMBRI	
Norway	Dr Dagmar HAGEN	
Norway	Prof May-Guri SAETHRE	Prof Halvor SOLHEIM
Poland	Prof Justyna NOWAKOWSKA	
Poland	Dr Tomasz OSZAKO	
Portugal	Prof Antonio SOARES	
Portugal	Dr Cristina MAGUAS	
Serbia	Prof Snezana RADULOVIC	Prof Milka GLAVENDEKIC
Serbia	Prof Olivera PETROVIC-OBRADOVIC	Dr Dragana MARISAVLJEVIC
Slovakia	Dr Peter ZACH	
Slovakia	Dr Jana MEDVECKA	
Slovenia	Mr Gabrijel SELJAK	
Spain	Prof Montserrat VILA	Dr Emili GARCIA-BERTHOU
Spain	Dr Daniel SOL	
Switzerland	Prof. Wolfgang NENTWIG	
Switzerland	Dr Marc KENIS	
UK	Dr Gareth RICHARDS	Dr Elizabeth COOK
UK	Dr Helen ROY	Dr David ROY, Dr David ALDRIDGE

How to communicate on Pests and Invasive Alien Plants

8-10 October 2013, Oeiras, Portugal

A joint EPPO/CoE/EEA/IUCN OSSG Workshop on pests and invasive plants will be organized on 2013-10-08/10 in Oeiras in Portugal at the kind invitation of the Portuguese Plant Protection Organization, the University of Coimbra, the Agrarian School of Coimbra and the Centre for Functional Ecology. The workshop is aimed at civil servants, scientists, land managers, members of NGOs, journalists, and any other interested persons.

Read more and register on EPPO website

2nd International Congress on Biological Invasions - Biological Invasions, Ecological safety and Food Security

23 - 27 October 2013, Qingdao, China

Invasive alien species (IAS) are considered to be one of the most serious challenges to humankind, biodiversity and the environment in the 21st century. In response to the global challenge of IAS, the 1st ICBI was successfully held on 2-6 November 2009 in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China with more than 500 participants from 44 countries.

It developed a strong network of expert scientists and concluded with unanimous support for the "Fuzhou Declaration". It was agreed that the ICBI would be held on a regular basis, at 4-year intervals. An International Expert Committee has been established to provide scientific, technical and policy guidance to make ICBI a stimulating forum for information exchange and innovation ideas for basic research on and management of IAS.
Supported by the International Expert Committee, the 2nd ICBI will be held on 23-27 October 2013 in Qingdao, Shandong Province, China. The Congress will continue to facilitate the exchange of cutting edge research and the tracking of technical progress on managing IAS eco-rationally and sustainably. The Congress will also address the gaps between research and field applications, key links between biological invasions, biodiversity and ecological safety, as well as the relationships between climate change and biological invasions.

Online registration
For more information visit the website