



The EU policy framework on IAS

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IAS in the EU Biodiversity Strategy

- BDS to 2020 **Target 5**: ‘Combat IAS’ – **Action 16**: ‘Establish a dedicated legislative instrument on IAS’
- → **EU Regulation 1143/2014** on the prevention & management of the introduction & spread of IAS
- **IAS in Biodiversity Strategy to 2030**
- “The implementation of the EU IAS Regulation and other relevant and international agreements must be stepped up”.
- “This should aim to minimise, and where possible eliminate, the introduction of alien species in the EU environment. The aim will be to manage established invasive alien species and decrease the number of Red List species they threaten by 50%”



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COM(2020) 380 final

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

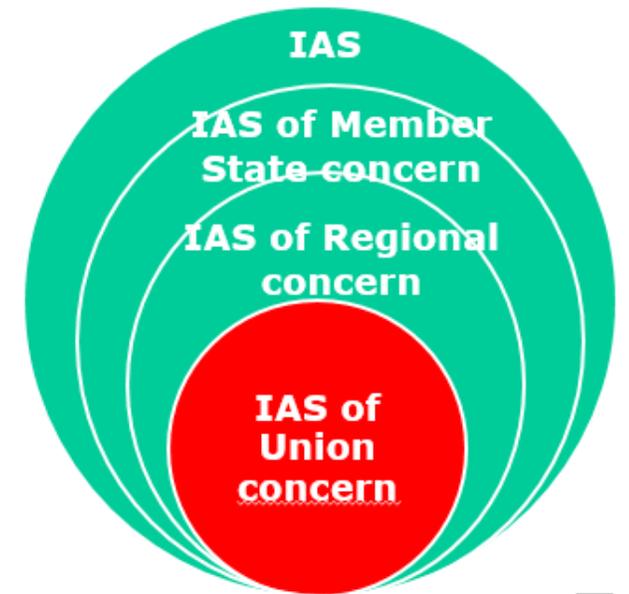
EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Bringing nature back into our lives



The IAS regulation: Basic elements

- **Objective (Art 1)** - prevent, minimise and mitigate the adverse impact on biodiversity of the introduction and spread within the Union, both intentional and unintentional, of IAS.
- At the core of the Regulation: **list of IAS of Union concern** = species for which concerted action at Union level is required
- Based on criteria & risk assessment
- Dynamic list, developed and updated with the assistance of
- Scientific Forum (advice on scientific questions)
- Committee (agreement of Member States)



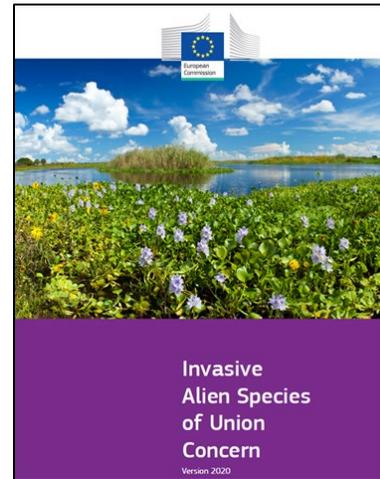
List following the 3rd update in 2022

88 IAS of Union concern

41 plants

47 animals

Updated regularly
(last update August 2022)



The coypu (*Myocastor coypus*)

Identification guide to support the surveillance of invasive alien species of Union concern

Species ID	
Kingdom	Metazoa
Division	Chordata
Class	Mammalia
Order	Rodentia
Family	Myocastoridae
Genus	Myocastor
Species	Myocastor coypus

General description

Medium sized semi-aquatic rodent with dark reddish-brown and yellow-brown fur, sometimes with lighter ends (but light coloured and albino individuals are also known), with distinctive bright orange-yellow front teeth, and a long and heavy tail like rounded tail (best still when swimming as the body is propelled by the feet). Usually found in a wide range of freshwater environments, mostly permanent water bodies, including ponds, drainage canals, rivers, lakes, marshes, and swamps.

Size

Total length head to tail up to 1 meter (tail: 30–45 cm). Weight: 4–6 up to 9 kg.

Common names

BG	Hyrcan
HR	Banska rutinja
CZ	Nutrie říbí
DA	Sumpbaever
NL	Bovenrat
EN	Coypu
ET	Nutria
FI	Nutria
FR	Ragondin
DE	Nutria
EL	Μυοκαστοπούς
HU	Nutria
IE	Fearcath abhainn
IT	Nutria
LV	Nūtrija
LT	Nūtrija
MT	-
PL	Nutria
PT	Ratão-de-água
RO	Nutrie
SK	Nutria riečia
SL	Nutria
ES	Coypi
SV	Sumpbäver

Arthurdendylus triangulatus (New Zealand flatworm)

The New Zealand flatworm is a terrestrial flatworm native to New Zealand's temperate South Island, where it is commonly associated with disturbed habitats and southern beech (*Nothofagus*) forests. It was first recorded in the EU in Ireland in 1904, and is now well established in Ireland and Britain, with genetic evidence suggesting it has been introduced on multiple occasions.



The New Zealand flatworm appears to be well suited to the mild, maritime climate of Ireland and Britain. Therefore, the species could successfully establish in Atlantic coastal regions of other EU Member States. Its unintentional introduction and spread is primarily facilitated by the movement of soil, for example, with the ornamental plant trade, agricultural produce, or with topsoil.

ANIMALS

The species is an aggressive predator of earthworms. This negatively impacts not only plant but of nutrient-cycling earthworms, but also has a significant impact on other native species which birds and mammals.

Once established, New Zealand flatworm invasions become very difficult and expensive to control. Measures directed against them could also negatively affect native species. The most effective way to stop it is by preventing its introduction in the first place. Since New Zealand with soil in potted plants, EU-level action includes tighter controls over plant trade to avoid their traders and farmers can also help in preventing the introduction and spread of this invasive species. Inspecting pots or trays carefully (especially if they come from an area where findings of the flatworm have been reported) and hay bales they bring onto their farm. If the flatworm becomes widely spread, additional appropriate management measures have to be taken (e.g. crop rotation, soil treatment).



The management of tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)

Measures and associated costs

Species (scientific name)	Ailanthus altissima (M.) Swingle
Species (common name)	Tree of heaven
Author(s)	Giuseppe Brundu (Department of Agriculture, University of Sassari, Italy)
Data Completed	06/11/2017
Reviewer	Ingo Kowarik (Department of Ecology, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany)
Reference	Brundu, G. 2017. Information on measures and related costs in relation to species considered for inclusion on the Union list. <i>Ailanthus altissima</i> . Technical note prepared by IUCN for the European Commission.

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Common names

BG	Айлант
HR	Žjedensti pajasan
CZ	Pojasan žláznatý
DA	Skyrækker
NL	Herfeloem
EN	Tree of heaven
ET	Näärmeeline jumalapu
FI	Haisujumalperuu
FR	Allante glanduleux
DE	Götterbaum
EL	Αειβλόβοο ο υμνώδιστος
HU	Mérgyes bákványfa
IE	Craim na rídeithe
IT	Allanto (albero del paradiso)
LV	Augstākās ailants
LT	Aukštasis ailantas

Scientific name	English name	Entry into force
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common myna	15 August 2017
<i>Alopochen aegyptiacus</i>	Egyptian goose	2 August 2017
<i>Ameiurus melas</i>	Black bullhead	2 August 2022
<i>Arthurdendylus triangulatus</i>	New Zealand flatworm	15 August 2022
<i>Axis axis</i>	Chital	2 August 2022
<i>Callosciurus erythraeus</i>	Pallas' squirrel	3 August 2016
<i>Callosciurus finlaysonii</i>	Finlayson's squirrel	2 August 2022
<i>Channa argus</i>	Northern snakehead	2 August 2022
<i>Corvus splendens</i>	Indian house crow	3 August 2016
<i>Eriocheir sinensis</i>	Chinese mitten crab	3 August 2016
<i>Faxonius rusticus</i>	Rusty crayfish	2 August 2022
<i>Fundulus heteroclitus</i>	Mummichog	2 August 2022
<i>Gambusia affinis</i>	Western mosquitofish	2 August 2022
<i>Gambusia holbrooki</i>	Eastern mosquitofish	2 August 2022
<i>Herpestes javanicus</i>	Small Asian mongoose	3 August 2016
<i>Lampropeltis getula</i>	Common kingsnake	2 August 2022
<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	Pumpkinseed	15 August 2017
<i>Limnoperna fortunei</i>	Golden mussel	2 August 2022
<i>Lithobates catesbeianus</i>	American bullfrog	3 August 2016

Action triggered by the Union list

- **Prevention of new introductions or further spread**
- Restrictions on intentional activities (Art 7) such as imported into the Union kept, bred, grown, sold, transported or released into the environment
- Pathway management to tackle unintentional
- introductions (Art 13)
- **Early detection and rapid eradication of new populations**
- Surveillance & official controls (Art 14 & 15)
- Early detection and notification (Art 16)
- Rapid eradication (Art 17)
- **Management of established IAS**
- Management measures for widely spread species (Art 19)

Information support system & citizen science

- European Alien Species Information Network: EASIN => species search and mapping <http://easin.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>
- Online platform to facilitate access to info on IAS
- Includes NOTSYS – notification system for MS to inform EC on new observations of IAS of Union concern, and on rapid eradication measures
- “IAS Europe” app for citizen science



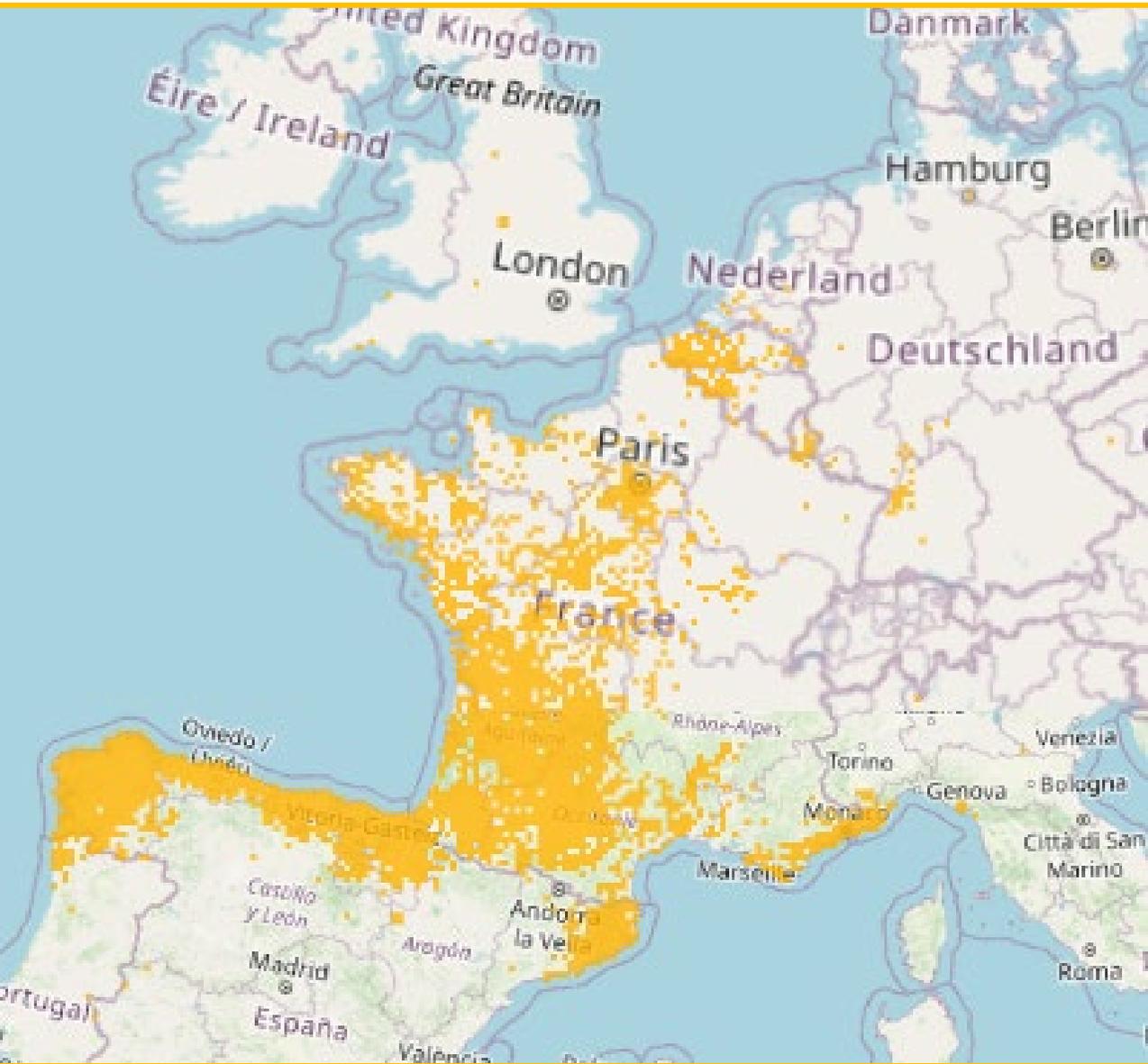
A screenshot of the EASIN website homepage. The header includes the European Commission logo and the text "JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE European Alien Species Information Network - EASIN". Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT EASIN, SERVICES, DOCUMENTATION, NOTSYS, EDITORIAL BOARD, and CITIZEN SCIENCE. The main content area features a large image of a long, thin fish (Fistularia commersonii) swimming in the water. Below the image is a caption: "Fistularia commersonii, named 'Lessepian sprinter' for its rapid spread in the Mediterranean Sea." Below the image is a table with three columns: SPECIES (13.991), OCCURRENCES (53.261.656), and DATA PARTNERS (19). To the right of the table is a section titled "Upcoming Events" with two entries: "Monday, 27 August - Friday, 31 August, Alghero Sardinia, Italy" and "Monday, 3 September - Friday, 7 September, Oulu & Helsinki, Finland". Below the events is another entry: "Tuesday, 4 September - Friday, 7 September, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland". The footer includes the European Commission logo and the text "European Commission".

Key lessons learned in the EU

- EU has a coherent framework for addressing IA. Surveillance and official control systems, Art. 7 restrictions (e.g. trade bans), early detection and management are delivering benefits.
- A dynamic Union list is helpful, and there is a need to step up action on identifying priority pathways.
- Centralising information at EU level is useful, also to raise awareness.
- Particular challenge posed by species of economic significance.
- Lack of sufficient funding to address IAS and lack of administrative capacity remain significant challenges in many EU Member States.
- Knowledge gaps remain, e.g. on costs and benefits of addressing IAS; on methods for IAS management, etc.

Vespa velutina

- Presence in Europe based on Member States reporting
- Species has been expanding North
- When a species is widespread in a Member State the reporting obligation is removed.



Vespa velutina

- Introduced in the European Union in 2004
- Most likely pathway of introduction is stowaway with wood or wood-packaging
- Currently expansion is unaided natural dispersal
- Preventing the spread has been challenging species is considered established now as well in Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg and in South West Germany
- There is active management, but if not all queens are killed before hibernation they will reappear in spring the year after.
- Member States have made funds available for management, but no eradication yet (there has been successful eradication in the UK).
- LIFE projects have been funded as well on this species

Upcoming developments

- Preparation of the new reporting format for the upcoming Member State reporting
- Preparing the 4th update of the Union list
- A new Horizon scan study for identifying new priority species to be listed
- A Horizon Europe call on monitoring and modelling including in marine environments
- After the IPBES report we will also have guidelines to be adopted at the Convention on Biological Diversity and 3 sessions organized on IAS under the G7

For more information contact

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or visit:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/invasivealien/index_en.htm