

Invasive alien species

Animal species to watch out for on islands and how can you help prevent their arrival

Red Palm Weevil

Rhynchophorus ferrugineus

Native to southern Asia.

It has major impacts on palm trees. This species is spread through movement of wood which contains pupae.



House Crow

Corvus splendens
Native to Asia and, where it is introduced, it eats small reptiles and mammals. This bird can hitchhike on boats to travel to new locations around the world.



Bed Bug

Cimex hemipterus

Found around the world in tropical regions. It can cause skin lesions and itching. It is spread with people in infested luggage, clothing and bedding.



Little Fire Ant

Wasmannia auropunctata

Native to South and Central America. It can cause humans painful stings, attack hatchlings and adults of land and sea turtles, and reduce the abundance of insects. This species can be spread through infested soil and on plants.



House Mouse *Mus musculus*

Native to India but found widely around the world. It can attack seabirds on islands and spread diseases that affect humans.



Brown Tree Snake

Boiga irregularis

Native to eastern and northern Australia. It lives in trees. Where it is introduced it eats native bird species. It can stow away in containers.

Asian Green Mussel

Perna viridis

Native to Asia-Pacific, but introduced to tropical waters worldwide. It can damage submerged structures like drainage pipes. This species travels by hull and ballast water.



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This mini guide shows seven invasive alien species that can be a problem on islands and archipelagos like the Chagos Archipelago and the Hawaiian Archipelago.

- Alien species are organisms which arrive in new locations around the world due to human activity.
- Alien species can arrive in many different ways, through release or escape, as contaminants or stowaways. Some species are introduced deliberately, e.g. as some garden plants, others are introduced by accident e.g. the Brown Tree Snake in Guam.
- Invasive alien species are alien species that have negative impacts on biodiversity, human health and/or the economy.
- Invasive alien species are also known as invasive non-native species.
- Invasive alien species are estimated to cost billions of dollars per year to governments around the world.
- Invasive alien species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity alongside climate change and habitat destruction and fragmentation.
- There are many simple biosecurity methods that you can follow to minimise the introduction or spread of invasive alien species and diseases, for example, clean soil off your shoes before you travel, and check your luggage for insects or seeds. You can see more biosecurity advice at www.nonnativespecies.org.

If you see any of these species please let your local Environment Officer know where and when you found it, and if you can, please also send a photo. To find out more about invasive alien species please visit: www.nonnativespecies.org.



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