

## Mini guide to

# invasive alien species



### Harlequin ladybird

*Harmonia axyridis*

Native to Asia.

Introduced to some European countries as a biocontrol agent for pest insects. Threatens

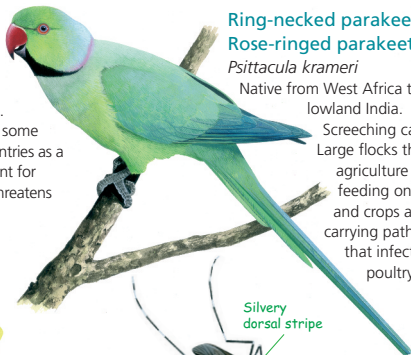
other species (e.g. native ladybirds) through competition and predation.

### Bermuda buttercup

*Oxalis pes-caprae*

Native to South Africa. Can

become dominant over disturbed land such as road verges, olive and citrus groves, vineyards and crop fields, reducing native vegetation and crop germination.



### Ring-necked parakeet or Rose-ringed parakeet

*Psittacula krameri*

Native from West Africa to lowland India.

Screeching call. Large flocks threaten agriculture by feeding on fruits and crops and by carrying pathogens that infect poultry.



### Asian tiger (above) and Yellow fever mosquito

(left) *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*

Native to Asia. Introduced worldwide (into Europe through the used tyre

trade) and very hard to control, so early warning essential. Transmit diseases such as Zika, yellow fever, dengue and chikungunya.

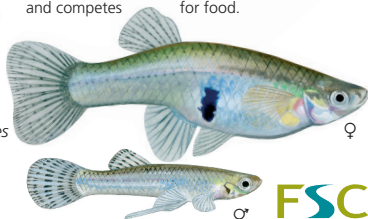


### Common lionfish or devil firefish *Pterois miles*

Native to Indian Ocean. Entered the Mediterranean through the Suez Canal. Voracious predator bearing venomous spines.

### Eastern mosquitofish *Gambusia holbrooki*

Native to USA. Small live-bearing fish introduced to many countries to control mosquitos. Threat to the native Mediterranean killifish (*Aphanius fasciatus*); acts aggressively towards it (biting and fin-nipping) and competes for food.





## Researching Invasive Species in Kýpros

This mini guide shows examples of invasive alien species threatening biodiversity or human well-being in Cyprus. If you see any of these species please let the RIS-Ký team know by sending a photo, location and date to **info@ris-ky.info**

To find out more about alien species please visit:

www.ris-ky.info  www.facebook.com/groups/RISKYCYPUS  @RiskYAliens

- Alien species are organisms introduced intentionally or accidentally by people into new regions outside their native range.
- Alien species can arrive in many different ways, through release or escape, as contaminants or stowaways, or along transport corridors.
- Not all alien species are problematic, but the ones that cause problems are termed 'invasive'. Invasive alien species are estimated to cost billions of Euros per year.
- Invasive alien species threaten biodiversity, economy and society, including human health and well-being.
- There are over 660 alien species documented in Cyprus. Further work is required to find out how many are invasive.
- There are many simple biosecurity methods that everyone can follow to minimise the introduction or spread of invasive alien species and diseases – for example, see <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry> and <http://www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise>

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