



RIS-Ký: Researching Invasive Species in Kýpros

Assessment of current and future Invasive Alien Species in Cyprus

Jodey Peyton and the RIS-Ký team

COST Action CA17122: Increasing understanding of alien species through citizen science

25-28 February 2019

Akrotiri Environmental Education Centre, SBA, Cyprus



Our Darwin Plus Project: DPLUS056



Project Title: *Assessment of current and future Invasive Alien Species in Cyprus*

Start Date: 1st April 2017

End Date: 31st March 2019

Project Duration: 24 months

Partners: JSHU and UCY



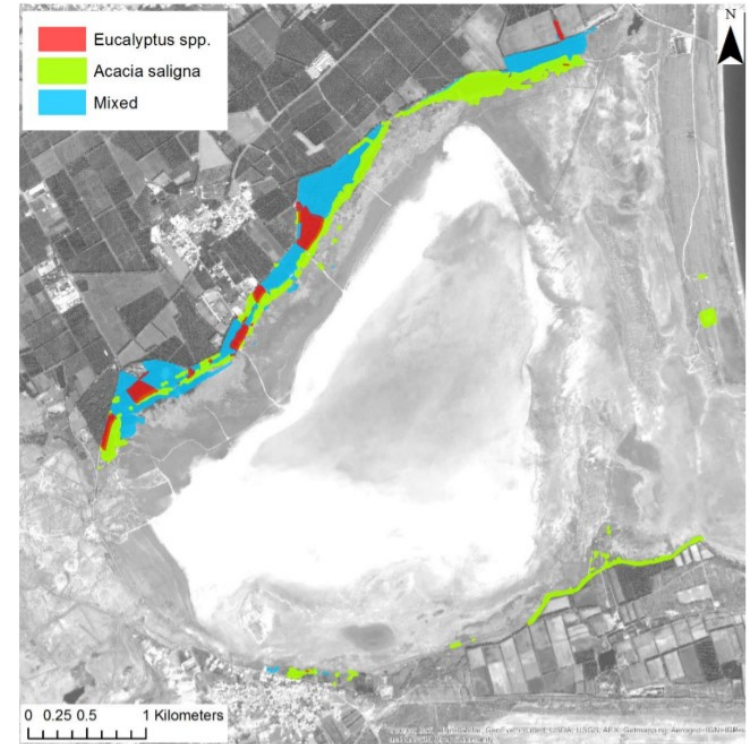
Background



COST Action TD1209: Alien Challenge

Short Term Scientific Mission with Kelly Martinou and Owen Mountford (and Oli Pescott)

Awarded Darwin Plus funding for 2017 to further develop this work



WP1: Horizon scanning



- Consensus methods to derive prioritised list of species with the potential to arrive, establish and threaten biodiversity, ecosystems and human well-being within the next ten years.
- *The scope of the horizon scanning was the entire island of Cyprus, but we also considered the relevance of the top 100 species to the Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus*
 - Reviewed 225 alien species
 - 100 species: very high, high or medium biodiversity risk
 - 125 species: low risk.
 - Potential impacts on human health were documented for all 225 species
 - 82 species were considered to have a potentially negative impact on human health ranging from nuisance to disease transmission.

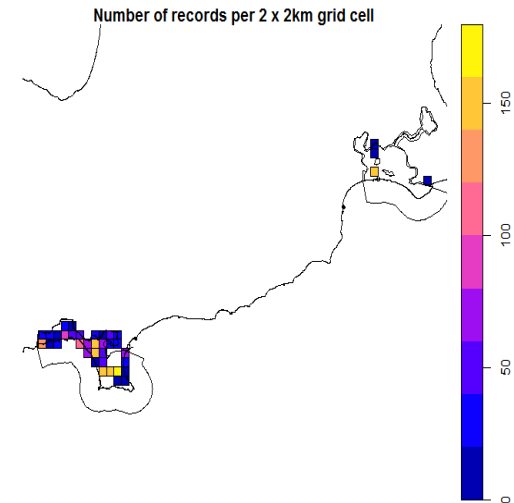
Peyton et al (in Revision) Horizon scanning for invasive alien species with the potential to threaten biodiversity and human health on a Mediterranean island. *Biological Invasions*



WP2: Surveillance of species distributions



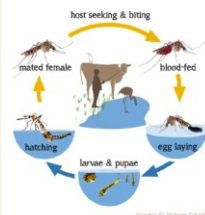
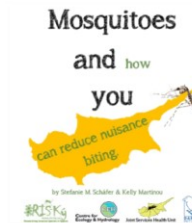
- Mapping abundance and distribution of native and IAS species on the SBAs inc:
 - Port Jackson Willow *Acacia saligna*
 - *Casuarina* spp.
 - Eastern Mosquitofish *Gambusia holbrooki*
 - Mediterranean Killifish *Aphanius fasciatus* (*native*)
 - Mosquitoes: monitoring for appearance of species of concern *Aedes albopictus* and *Aedes aegypti*
 - Lionfish *Pterois miles*
 - Cornetfish *Fistularia commersonii*.
- Vegetation and habitat mapping
- Creation of CyDAS: Online resource developed by Oli from Kelly's **STSM** with Argyro Zenetos



WP3: Biosecurity and capacity building



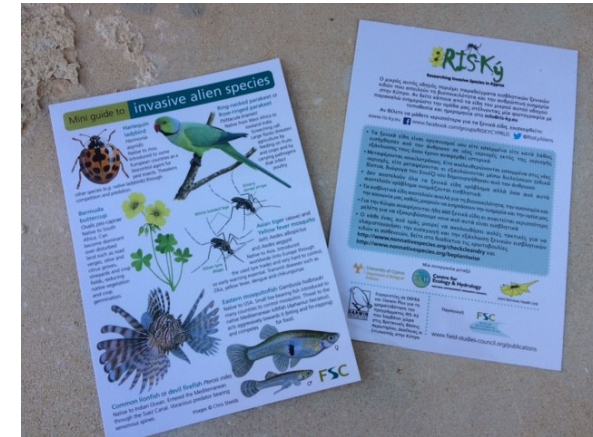
- Top priorities for biological recording identified in Cyprus: Capacity building workshop, August 2017
- Biosecurity training on mosquito control and management
 - Vector Workshop April 2018
 - Code of Conduct for Mosquito Management in wetlands
- UCY working with SBA divers to establish monitoring transects – surveys carried out alongside structured UCY surveys



WP3: Biosecurity and capacity building



- Book Chapter: Bioinvasions in the Mediterranean: *The forest on the peninsula: Impacts, uses and perceptions of a colonial legacy in Cyprus*
- PoMS-Ký – associated online recording system – looking at interactions between IAS and pollinating insects
- Bilingual mini-guides produced to highlight challenges around some present and potential IAS in Cyprus



Addressing drivers of ecological change in Lake Akrotiri, WSBA, Cyprus (CEH, JSHU, AEEC)



WP1: Developing online wildlife recording

WP2: Hydrological and vegetation sampling

WP3: Remote sensing of vegetation

WP4: Capacity-building, biosecurity and engagement



Thank you!

www.ris-ky.info



RisKyAliens



RISKYCYPRUS



Thank you to COST TD1209 for starting our journey
And to the Darwin Initiative for funding our two projects

