

Horizon Scanning for Invasive Alien Species in Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus

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Background

- Invasive alien species (IAS) are considered one of the greatest threats to biodiversity.
- Horizon scanning can be used to identify and prioritise future potential threats and opportunities.
- Collaborative consensus methods to prioritise non-native species likely to arrive, establish and impact on biodiversity and ecosystems and human health, in the terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments in Cyprus, over the next ten years.

The RIS-Ký project

- Researching Invasive Species of Kýpros (RIS-Ky) was launched in April 2017
- Researching impacts of invasive non-native species in a variety of habitats (terrestrial, freshwater and marine) and will run for two years
- Defra Darwin Plus funded project collating information on non-native species within the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs) of Cyprus.



Eucalypts forest on the northern shore of the Akrotiri salt lake

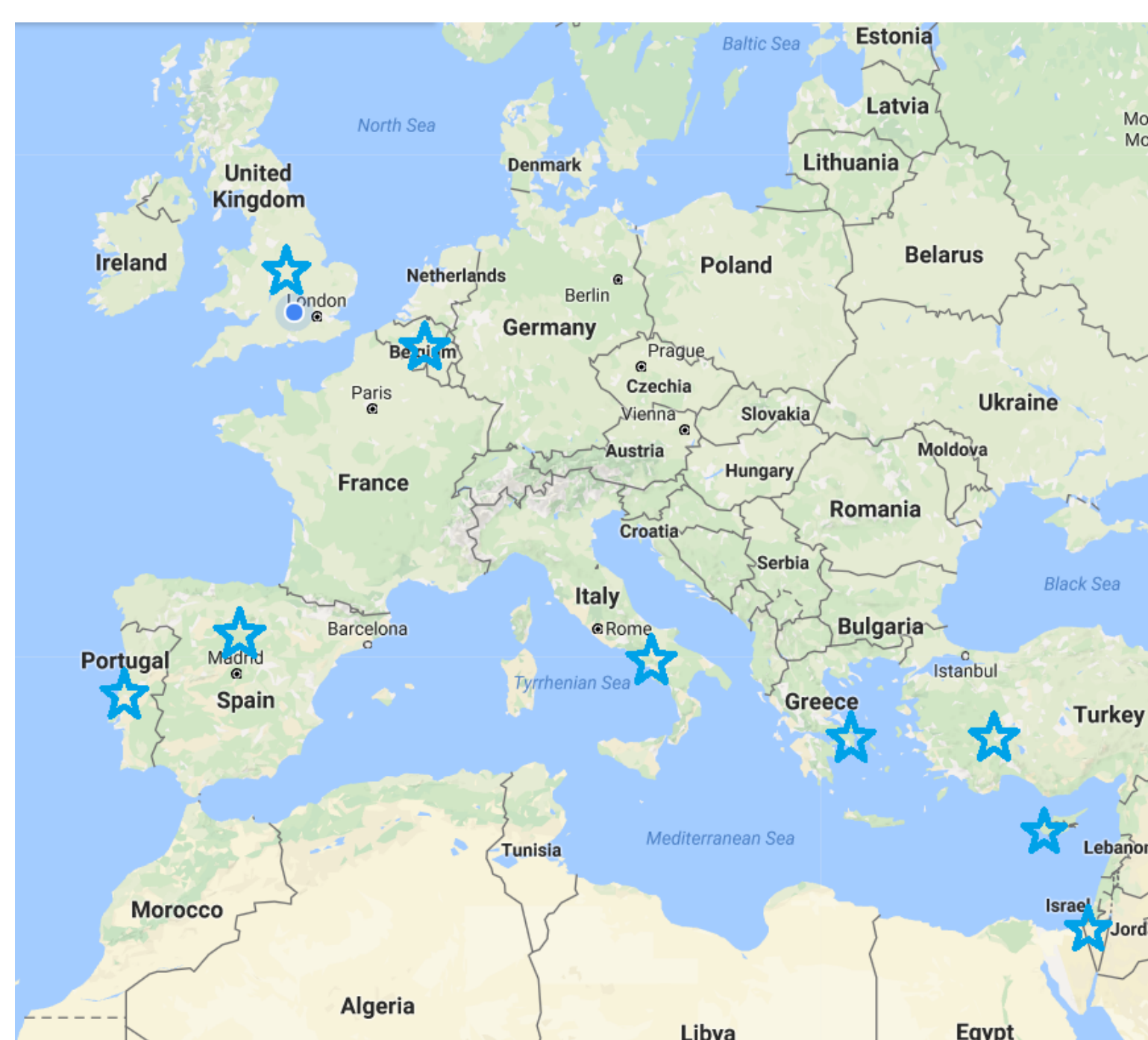
Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus



Location of the Sovereign Base Areas of Cyprus; 1 indicates the location of Akrotiri and 2, Dhekelia (© Google maps)

The SBAs represent an intriguing context in which to assess impacts of non-native species both because of the military movements and the linking to the wider Cypriot environment, given the nature of the border between the SBAs and Cyprus.

Sharing information



The geographical spread of the participants across Europe

The HS Team



The participants of the Horizon Scanning Workshop Sitting: Voula Karachle, Elena Tricarico, First row (Left to right) Nicolas Michaelides, Pantelis Savvides, Steffi Schafer, Marc Botham, Demetris and Periklis Kletou, Oli Pescott, Helen Roy, Kelly Martinou, Jodey Peyton, Gwynne Harper, Bella Galil, Margarita Arianoutsou, Giannis Bazos, Argyro Zenetos, Kevin Shawcross, Alexia Perdiou, Davey Reynolds, Jill Key, Alex Kirschel, Christina Ieronymidou. Second row (right to left) Athina Papatheodoulou, Monica Demetriou, Niki Chartosia, George Fytis, George Payiattas, Nikos Kassinis, Eddie Foroma, Lefkios Sergides, Adam Sellars, Iacovos Tziortzis, Pantelis Charilaou, Elli Tzirkalli, Glen Bullivant, Carlos Jimenez, Ian Winfield, Jim Fawcett, Olaf Booy, Tim Adriaens and Thomas Hadjikyriakou

Summary findings

- Species scored on likelihood of **arrival**, likelihood of **establishment** and likelihood of **impact on biodiversity**.
- Over **240** species were identified as a future threat to biodiversity and ecosystems and or to human health
- **50** marine species highlighted
- **96** terrestrial vertebrates and invertebrates species
- **42** freshwater vertebrates and invertebrates species
- Over **50** plants species

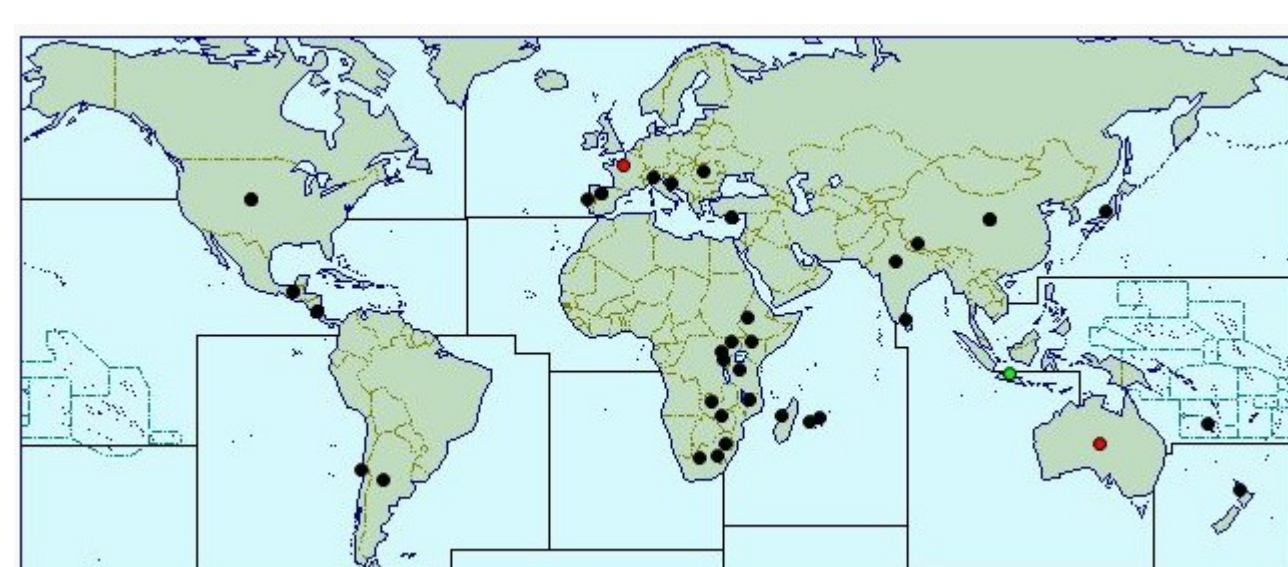
Top 10 species example:

Mimosa Tree *Acacia dealbata*: Score **125**



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- Tall leguminous shrub / tree but often seen growing as a spreading shrub
- Native to Australia but its prolific ability to spread has meant it has become invasive across the globe



The geographical spread of *A. dealbata* (Cabi, 2017)

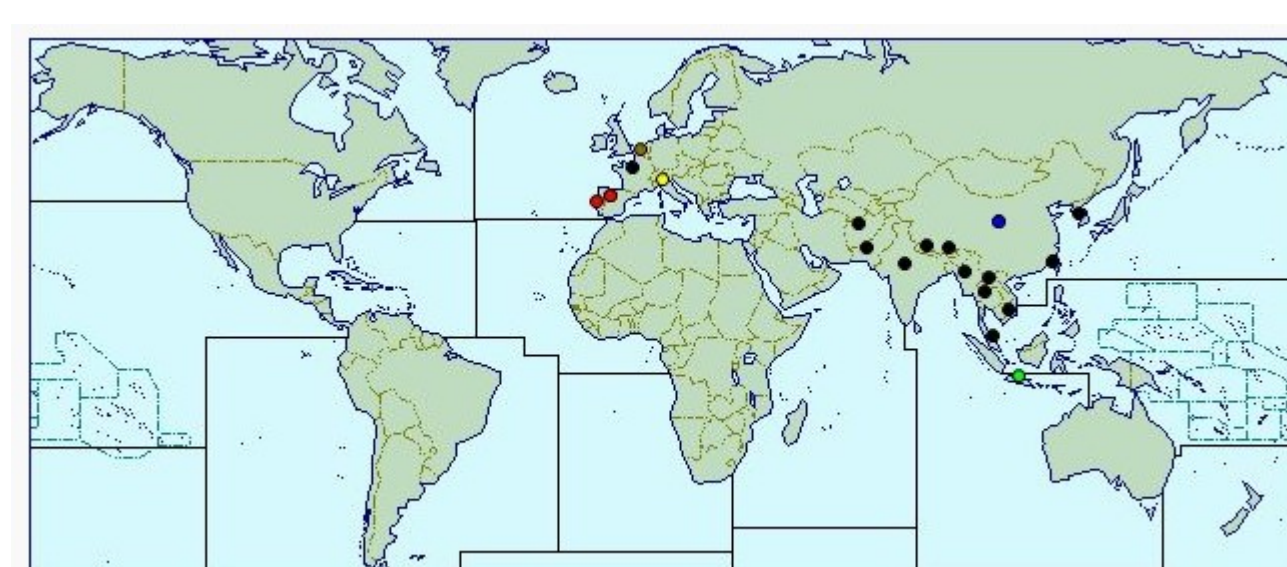
Top 10 species example:

Asian Hornet *Vespa velutina*: Score **125**



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- Highly variable hornet species with 10 known sub-species
- Native to Asia
- In Europe, readily identifiable and slightly smaller than the native European Hornet



The geographical spread of *Vespa velutina* (Cabi, 2017)

Next Steps

- Comprehensive risk assessments and management plans to minimise impacts of any new arrivals
- Outreach and engagement to encourage monitoring and surveillance
- Sharing information across Europe



Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* also on HS list and likely to have impact on native biodiversity

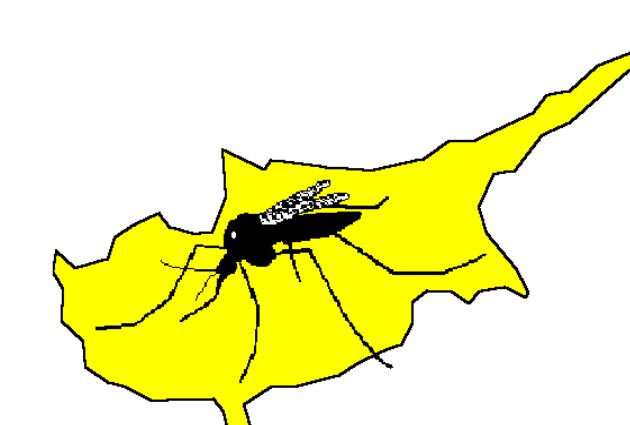
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University of Cyprus
Department of Biological
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Researching Invasive Species in Kýpros



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