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The progressing and escalating threats posed by invasive alien species in Europe urgently require bridging science and policy to effectively deal with biological invasions.

The scientific research is contributing significantly to the management of invasive alien species and our understanding of the complexity of the processes underlying biological invasions. But there remain challenges and questions, which require novel approaches, multidisciplinary, and cooperative efforts both in theoretical and applied research.

By approaching the problem from different perspectives and using different methodologies the contributions included in this Special Issue provide a sample of latest advances and set out new challenges in the field of the bioinvasion science. Topics covered include a novel method to quantify the invasiveness of species; a model for the set up of large-scale research networks for invasive alien species across its entire distribution; the use of genetic tools (mtDNA) to clarify the process of colonization of non-native areas by alien species; the effects of plant debris (wrack) burial on seed germination and seedling establishment.

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NeoBiota

Advancing research on alien species and biological invasions

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BERNARDO ZILLETTI



The invasive *Phytolacca americana*, one of the 1.416 plant species included in the analysis to quantify the invasiveness of species. Picture author: GEIB, Grupo Especialista en Invasiones Biológicas.

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For those who want their work known rapidly to the World !

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NeoBiota is a peer-reviewed, open-access, rapid online journal on the underlying mechanisms and associated consequences of all types of alien species and biological invasions. **NeoBiota** publishes papers across all disciplines interested in biological invasions, specifically on the ecology, evolution and biogeography of non-indigenous aquatic and terrestrial animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms, on mechanisms that drive the introduction, establishment and spread of these species, on ecological, evolutionary, economic and other consequences of biological invasions, and on the management of invasions in any part of the world. **NeoBiota** also strongly encourages papers on ethical, social, legal and policy issues related to biological invasions.

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Book chapters: Mayr E (2000) The biological species concept. In: Wheeler QD, Meier R (Eds) *Species Concepts and Phylogenetic Theory: A Debate*. Columbia University Press, New York, 17-29.

Books: Goix N, Klimaszewski J (2007) *Catalogue of Aleocharine Rove Beetles of Canada and Alaska*. Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow, 166 pp.

Book with institutional author: International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1999) *International code of zoological nomenclature. Fourth Edition*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature.

PhD thesis: Dalebout ML (2002) Species identity, genetic diversity and molecular systematic relationships among the Ziphiidae (beaked whales). PhD thesis, Auckland, New Zealand: University of Auckland.

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