

**Raccoon dog** *Nyctereutes procyonoides*

This omnivorous species may prey upon several animals and contribute to the spread of diseases.

**Asian hornet**

*Vespa velutina*

These predatory insects pose a threat to pollinating insects such as honeybees and other bees.

**Lionfish** *Pterois miles*

Lionfish have venomous spines and can sting humans. They are predators and feed on small crustaceans and fish.

**Water primrose**

*Ludwigia grandiflora*

An aquatic plant that rapidly spreads, interfering with navigation, impacting irrigation and drainage.

**Zebra mussel** *Dreissena polymorpha*

These freshwater shellfish are filter-feeders that efficiently extract plankton and so adversely affect entire ecosystems, they also cling to under water pipes and block them.



# AlienCSI

This mini guide shows just five of the alien species currently threatening European biodiversity.

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- Alien species are living organisms which have arrived in a new region as a consequence of human activity.
- There are more than 14,000 alien species in Europe and about 15% of these negatively affect biodiversity, the economy or society and are termed invasive alien species.
- Alien species arrive in new regions in many different ways. Some, such as garden plants, are intentionally introduced, while others arrive unintentionally, for example jellyfish may spread by hitchhiking in the ballast water of ships.
- Invasive alien species cost the European economy more than 12 billion euro per year.
- Invasive alien species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity alongside climate change and habitat destruction.



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Field Studies Council produces a range of guides to help with identification.  
[www.field-studies-council.org/publications](http://www.field-studies-council.org/publications)