

Mini guide to invasive terrestrial species



Asian tiger mosquito
Aedes albopictus

Native to Asia. Introduced worldwide and very hard to control. Transmits diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and zika.



Fan palm moth
Paysandisia archon

Accidentally introduced from South America with imported palm trees, the caterpillars of this moth cause damage to palms and can affect our native dwarf palm *Chamaerops humilis*.



Bermuda buttercup
Oxalis pes-caprae

Native to South Africa. Found throughout Gibraltar where it has become dominant, impeding the growth of native plants.



Oriental hornet
Vespa orientalis

Native to the Middle East and Eastern Mediterranean, it has made its way across Mediterranean Europe and is spreading. It can cause damage to honeybees and native pollinators.



Acacia
Acacia cyclops

Grows in dense stands, preventing growth of native plants and reducing the species diversity.



Little fire ant
Wasmannia auropunctata

Native to South America, this very small ant is aggressive and will sting humans, as well as pets. It is a big threat to native biodiversity, especially native ants.





Gibraltar is a migration route for many birds and insects. The Rock of Gibraltar is a special area of conservation as it contains endemic flora and fauna. This mini guide shows examples of invasive alien species threatening biodiversity or human well-being in Gibraltar.



Please report insect sightings to rguillem@wildlife.gi

Factfile

- 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 currently estimated to be 211 non-native insects resident on Gibraltar.
- 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

www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry and

www.nonnativespecies.org/beplantwise



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