

## Mini guide to

# South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands invasive species



**Flattened  
crab**

*Halicarcinus  
planatus*

Climate change is warming  
sea water and may make  
crab invasions more likely.



**Common earwig**  
*Forficula auricularia*

This insect will eat almost  
anything, including native  
plants and invertebrates.

**11-spot  
ladybird**

*Coccinella  
undecimpunctata*



Established on the Falkland Islands, individuals  
were detected on South Georgia in 2023. Subsequent  
surveys at that location have not found this species.



**Annual bluegrass**  
*Poa annua*

Widespread on South  
Georgia. One of the most  
invasive plants on Earth,  
this grass can quickly crowd  
out native species.



**Winter crane fly**

*Trichocera maculipennis*

This introduced fly can survive  
at low temperatures and could  
outcompete native insects.



**Carabid beetles**

e.g., *Trechisibus antarcticus*

Established at some sites on South  
Georgia, these predatory beetles  
eat native invertebrate species and  
could cause local extinctions.



**Chilean mussel**

*Mytilus chilensis*

These shellfish can create  
large mussel beds  
and squeeze out  
native species.



This mini guide shows seven species that are present or have the potential to invade South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. If you see any of these species, or anything similar, please take photographs and report your findings to your tour operator or upload on *iNaturalist*.

### Factfile

- Non-native species are living organisms that have arrived in a new region, often as a consequence of human activity. Those that have negative impacts on the native biodiversity are termed invasive species. In comparison to many islands there are very few established non-native species on South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.
- Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, alongside climate change, habitat destruction and, in the sea, overfishing.
- Non-native species can arrive in South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands in many different ways. They can be introduced on cargo, fresh foods or associated with visitors' clothing, footwear and personal equipment. Marine non-native species can be introduced as biofouling on ship hulls or in ship ballast water.
- Eradicating non-native species can be difficult or impossible. It is better to prevent their introduction in the first place by using effective biosecurity measures, like cleaning and careful checking of clothing and footwear.



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