
European biosecurity policies: recent progress but persistent gaps

Olivier Blight*¹ and Wolfgang Rabitsch²

¹Institut méditerranéen de biodiversité et d'écologie marine et continentale – Avignon Université (AU)
– France

²Umweltbundesamt – Spittelauer Lände 5 1090 Vienna/Austria, Autriche

Résumé

The recent IPBES report has confirmed the major challenges posed by invasive alien species and their control. To mitigate their current and future environmental, economic and/or health impacts, Europe has adopted in 2014 a regulation that places the management of invasive alien species as one priority of the Member states. However, recent establishments of two notoriously problematic invasive ant species have demonstrated persistent biosecurity policy gaps in Europe. Invasive ants are among the alien species causing the greatest ecological, economic and health damage globally. The European Union has added four ant species to the list of alien species of Union concern (the "Union list") in 2022. This Regulation constitutes a significant progress in the management of invasive alien ants that was previously nonexistent, but we believe that a series of actions are still needed to overcome and fill remaining gaps. We suggest seven actions that will help to counteract the potentially significant negative impacts of invasive alien ants on biodiversity and the economy in the EU, and support policy goals in Europe and worldwide.

Mots-Clés: Biological invasions, invasive ants, biosecurity, European regulation

*Intervenant