Invasive Species

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Plants

1. Water Hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes)
   - Introduced as ornamental aquatic plant by B from S. America
   - No natural predator
   - Favourable climate
2. Lantana camara
3. Eucalyptus - from Australia
4. Pink Bloom (Cabomba furcuta) - From Americaa
   Aquarium plant escaped to wild

Kerala's 'pink phenomenon' can choke water bodies and drains, warn scientists

The species, Cabomba Furcata, can lead to biodiversity loss and are a threat to ecosystem health

NEXT NEWS ❯

By K A Shaji
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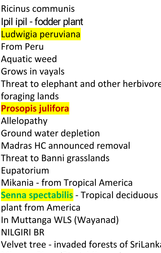


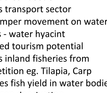
5. Chromolaena odorata (ഏവിയപ്പാണർവി പച്ച)
6. Congress/Carrot grass (Parthenium hysterophorous)
   - Introduced during PL480 scheme from US
   - KAZIRANGA NP
7. Ricinus communis
8. Ipil ipil - fodder plant
9. Ludwigia peruviana
   - From Peru
   - Aquatic weed
   - Grows in vayals
   - Threat to elephant and other herbivore foraging lands
10. Prosopis julifora
    - Allelopathy
    - Ground water depletion
    - Madras HC announced removal
    - Threat to Banni grasslands
11. Eupatorium
12. Mikania - from Tropical America
13. Senna spectabilis - Tropical deciduous plant from America
    - In Muttanga WLS (Wayanad)
    - NILGIRI BR
14. Velvet tree - invaded forests of SriLanka
15. Mimosa Pigra (Black Mimosa)

Mimosa pigra is native to Tropical America, and it has naturalized in many other countries especially in Australia, Eastern and Southern Africa and South Asia. The species is listed in the top 100 of the world's worst invasive alien species and is listed as Least Concern in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

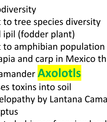
Animals

1. Eretmoptera murphyi - introduced in Signy Is. of Antarctica for botany experiment from S. Georgia
2. Red fox (Vulpes Vulpes) - invasive in Australia
3. Alligator Gar - invasive carnivore fish, posing threat to small native fishes of Dal Lake
4. Thrips Parvispinius - replaced native chilli pests in Telangana and AP
5. Carp
6. Tilapia
7. Mosquito fish = GAMBUSIA

Mosquitofish



Female



Male

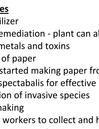
Conservation status

Extinct | Threatened | Least Concern
EX | EW | CR | EN | VU | NT | LC

Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)[2]

8. Million fish / Rainbow fish = GUPPY
9.

Guppy



Female (left) and male (right) guppies, an ornamental aquarium strain

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Least Concern (IUCN 3.1)[2]

9. Charu Mussel
10. Gaint African Snail
11. African catfish
12. Indian bull frog
13. Oriental fruit fly
14. Cassava mealy bug
15. Coconut leaf beetle
16. Dengue virus

Ecology

Economy Biodiversity

Impacts

1. On Ecology
   - Alter soil nutrients
   - Threat to forest eg. Velvet trees in Srilanka
   - Reduces ground water
     Eg. Prosopis juliflora in TN

2. On economy
   - Agriculture loss eg. Cassava mealy bug
   - Threat to plantation farmers
     Eg. Cocunut plantation affected by coconut leaf beetle
   - Affects transport sector
     Eg. Hamper movement on water bodies - water hyacint
   - Reduced tourism potential
   - Affects inland fisheries from competition eg. Tilapia, Carp
   - Reduces fish yield in water bodies due to oxygen deprivation

3. On biodiversity
   - Threat to tree species diversity
     Eg. Ipil ipil (fodder plant)
   - Threat to amphibian population
     Eg. Tilapia and carp in Mexico threatens CR salamander Axolotls
   - Releases toxins into soil
     Eg. Allelopathy by Lantana Camara, Eucalyptus
   - Threat to hebivore foraging land - Elephant eg. Peruviana
   - Decline in predator population like Tigers
   - Reduced oxygen from species on water eg. Water hyacinth
   - Reduced penetration of light into water eg. Pink bloom

4. On Health
   - Chocks flow of water
   - Breeding ground for mosquito eg. Spread of Dengue
   - Drinking and cleaning water

Good Practices

1. Biofertilizer
2. Phytoremediation - plant can absorb heavy metals and toxins
3. Source of paper
   Eg. TN started making paper from Senna spectabalis for effective utilisation of invasive species
4. Fibre making
   NREGA workers to collect and hand over to a start-up Rope, who will manufacture fibre from it. Double benefit
5. Sculpture making
   Recently, Elephant sculptures made from Lantana camara wood was displayed in the Vidhan Saudha of BLR

Measures

1. Strict screening