Biological invasions

November 19, 2004

Introduction Location and programme Organisation Home

Biological invasions of non-native species into new ranges are among the most immediate and serious threats to local species diversity and ecosystem functioning. Release of species into non-natural ecosystems does not necessarily lead to invasions, as approximately one out of 1000 introduced species becomes a notorious invader. Attempts to completely eradicate invaders usually fail and there have been very few, if any, successful removals of immigrants reported. It is expected that climate change will further enhance the incidence of biological invasions due to range expansion of species from warm climates. A number of examples of invasive caterpillars, moths and plants may only be the start of a huge number of new species that will colonize and change our ecosystems. However, there is very little fundamental knowledge to predict which species may become a serious invader, how this will influence indigenous biodiversity and how ecosystem management may cope with invaders.

In order to improve current predictions, we will explore and discuss biological invasions from a variety of view points reflecting ecological processes and principles that all relate to aspects of invasion: dispersal and colonization, food web dynamics, factors that control abundance of species (such as natural enemies), founder effects and evolutionary change in a new environment, and other processes that relate to invasion. Our ultimate aim is to explore why invaders may be so successful and how we may predict and manage biological invasions.

Organisation

Organisation:
Prof. Wim van der Putten, Netherlands Institute of Ecology, Heteren, the Netherlands.

Advice and overview:
Prof. Hans de Kroon, Experimental Plant Ecology, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

Logistics: Marieke Bootsma, Netherlands Institute of Ecology.

Web design: Johan van de Koppel, Netherlands Institute of Ecology.

For practical questions:
currentthemes@nioo.knaw.nl

Location of the Biological invasions Symposium

Date: November 19th, 2004
Venue: WICC, Wageningen The Netherlands
Admission, including lunch: € 20,= (Students & PhDs: € 10,=)
Starting time: 10.00 hrs.
Registration: Click to open Registration form

Address and route to the Wageningen International Conference Centre (WICC).

Programme

Print version

10.00-10.30	Registration and coffee
10.30-11.15	**John Klironomos** (Department of Botany, University of Guelph, Canada): Understanding biological invasions using a model plant-soil community.
11.15-11.45	**Rob Hengeveld** (Department of Animal Ecology, Free University, Amsterdam, NL): The dynamics of biological invasions.
11.45-12.15	**Katja Philippart** (Department of Marine Ecology and Evolution, Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NIOZ), Den Burg, NL): Climate-induced effects on the reproduction of benthic invertebrates, and the potential for biological invasions in marine ecosystems.
12.15-13.45	Lunch
13.45-14.15	**Aad Termorshuizen** (Department of Farming Systems Research, Wageningen University, NL): Invasions in the dark: how fungi may or may not invade soils.
14.15-14.45	**Peter de Ruiter** (Department of Environmental Sciences, Copernicus Research Institute for Sustainable Development and Innovation, Utrecht University, NL): Food web approach to biological invasions.
14.45-15.15	Tea
15:15-15:55	**Jane Memmott** (School of Biological Sciences, Bristol, UK): Trouble in Paradise: invasions, food webs and non target effects.
15:55-16.35	**Heinz Müller-Schärer** (Département de Biologie, Unité Ecologie et Evolution, Université de Fribourg, CH-1700 Fribourg, Switzerland) : Evolution in invasive plants and implications for biological control.
16.45	End