Invasive alien species of Union concern in the Czech Republic

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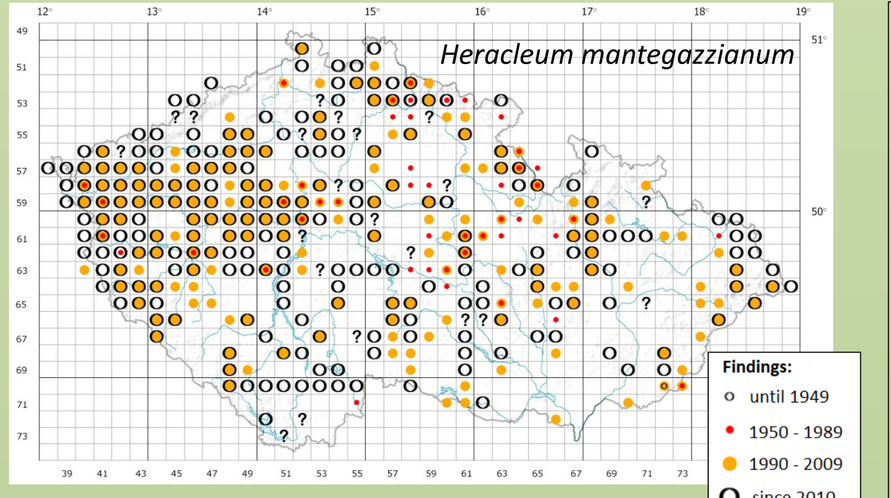
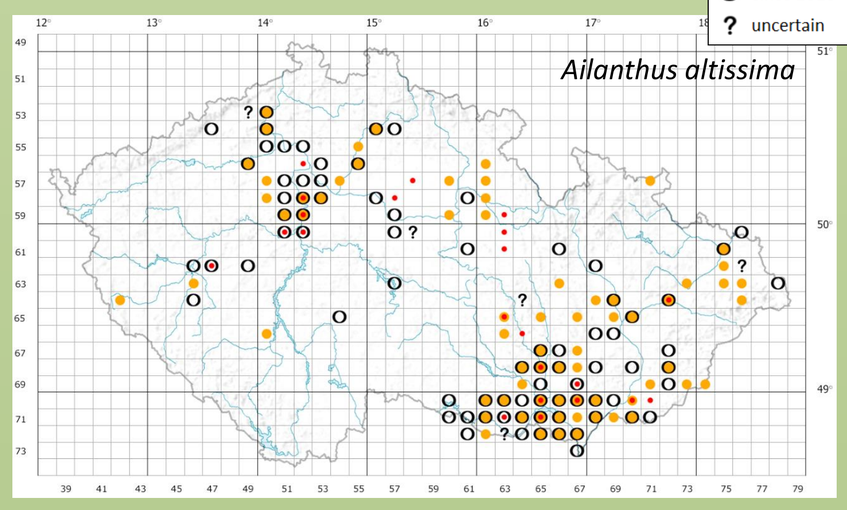
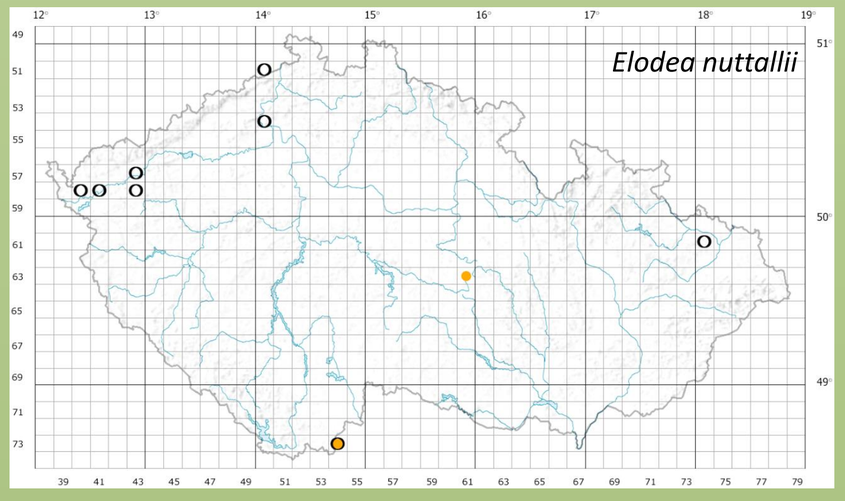
The EU Regulation 1143/2014 on invasive alien species (the IAS Regulation) entered into force on 1st January 2015. The IAS Regulation foresees three types of measures: prevention, early detection and rapid eradication, and management. The core of the IAS Regulation is the list of Invasive Alien Species of Union concern (the Union list). EU member states are required to implement cost-effective measures to reduce and eradicate species from the Union list and prevent their spreading.

In the Czech Republic, amendment of the Act No. 114/1992 Coll. on the Nature and Landscape Protection, as well as drafts of amendments to the related legislation acts, are improved in order to ensure a full adoption with the provisions of the IAS Regulation. Currently, an amendments of these acts are discussed in the Chamber of Deputies and will come into force probably at the end of this year. Ministry of the Environment is the national competent authority charged the relations with the European Commission, the coordination of activities and the issue of permits. A surveillance and management system are set up and coordinated by the Nature Conservation Agency.







Union list of invasive alien species

- 66 species (since August 2019)

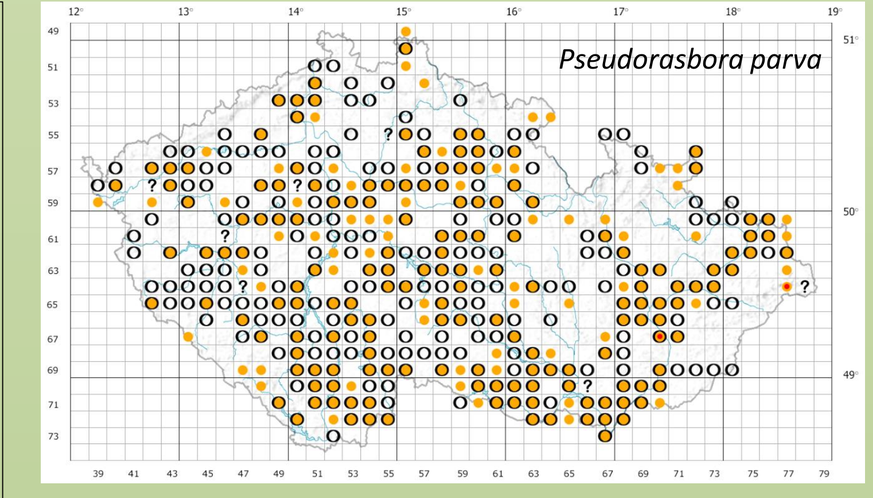
Occurrence in the Czech Rep.: 15 species (5 plants, 10 animals)
Common species: *Heracleum mantegazzianum, Impatiens glandulifera, Pseudorasbora parva, Alopochen aegyptiaca, Procyon lotor, Myocastor coypus, Ondatra zibethicus, Nyctereutes procyonoides*
Local distribution (see maps) **:** *Elodea nuttallii, Ailanthus altissima, Asclepias syriaca, Eriocheir sinensis, Orconectes limosus, Pacifastacus leniusculus, Trachemys scripta*
Rare or instable population: *Eichhornia crassipes* (doesnť overwinter), *Procambarus virginalis* (3 findings, only one confirmed)

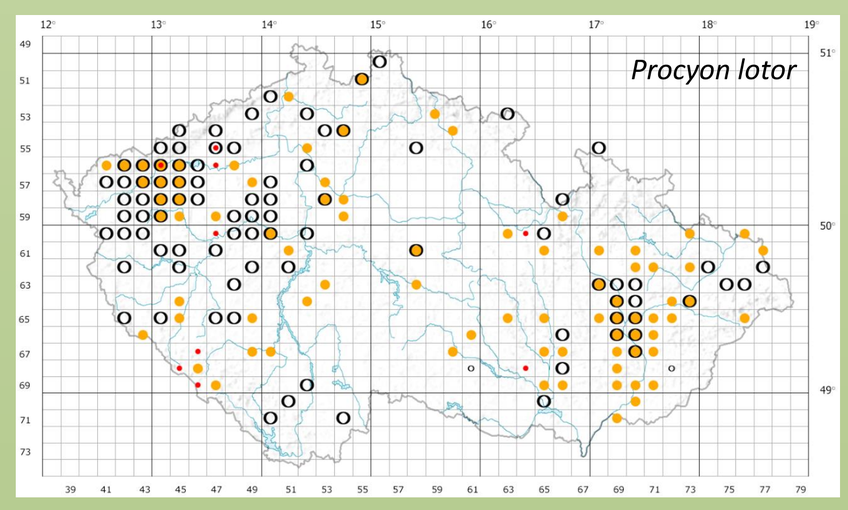
Species Occurrence Database

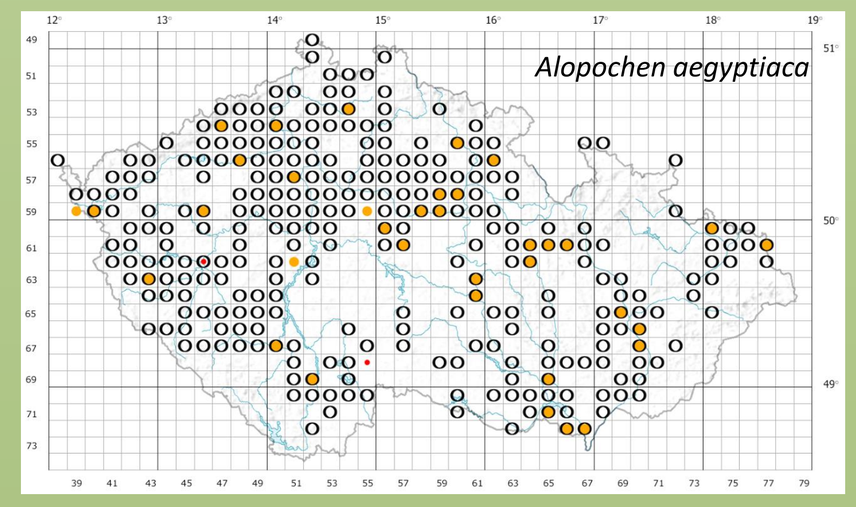
https://portal.nature.cz/nd/
Significant data source of species richness and diversity
Managed by the Nature Conservation Agency
Distribution maps accessible for the public
In the selected species – photos, description text
25 million records (as of August 2020)
Connected with mobile app **BioLog** (http://biolog.nature.cz/biolog/)

Surveillance system

http://invaznidruhy.nature.cz
Information about invasive alien species (news, links, legislation, manuals, etc.)
Information cards about invasive alien species from the Union list
Connected with Species Occurrence Database
Early warning system
Records of new invasive species from public rapidly verified
Rapid response ensured – monitoring and eradication activities (see marbled crayfish box)

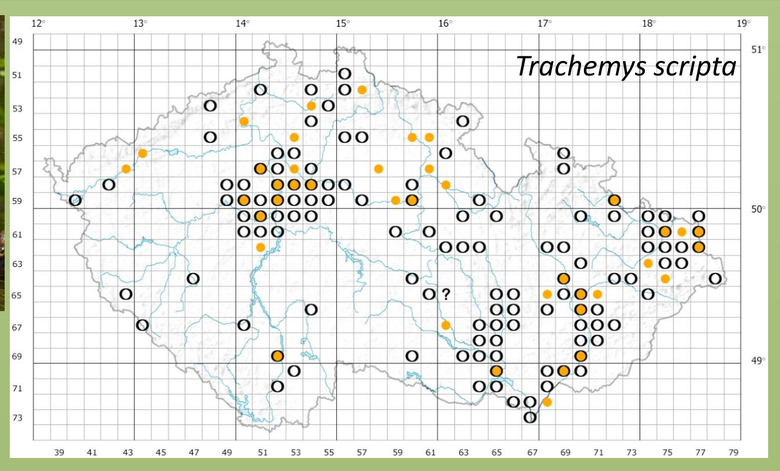


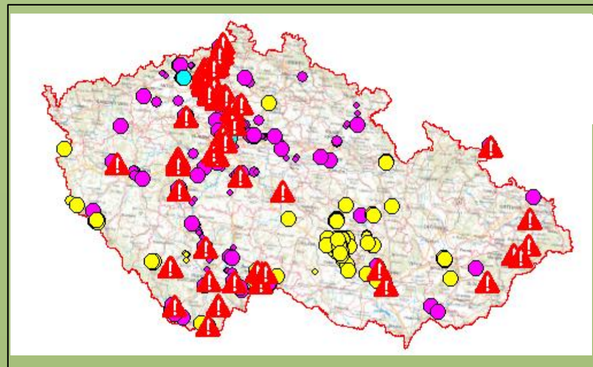




The occurrence of Elodea nuttallii is supposed to be more frequent due to its easy confusion with E. canadensis

E. canadensis *E. nuttallii*





Recently, the occurrence of crayfish plague is monitored by the Water Research Institute. Last year, mobile app for public "Crayfish in the Czech Rep." was launched.

Marbled crayfish (*Procambarus virginalis*): The first using of early warning system and rapid response

Marbled crayfish is one of the most dangerous non-native crayfish species from an European perspective. One single female could be sufficient to establish a viable population. This species is also confirmed as a vector of the crayfish plague

An urban pond in Prague where 3 marbled crayfish had been captured in October 2015. The water body was drained (fish were captured and translocated, sediments dried out and deposited and then calcium hypochlorite was applied r disinfection. No other observation of the above species was recorded.

An artificial pond at the Radovesice spoil heap – the second area with the marbled crayfish occurrence: 3 individuals in spring 2016, one dead crayfish in spring 2017, since then regular monitoring activities during the summer were carried out. Fish predators were introduced. In summer 2020, 16 *Procambarus* individuals were for now captured.