

EDITORIAL LETTER

Management of Biological Invasions: Opening the journal



• Why to build a journal on the Management of Biological Invasions?

One of the first questions managers ask themselves is where could I find the information I need to solve a management problem?, what related experiences have others had?. The answer is that sometimes they are in scientific journals, when the aim is to gather scientific evidence, and sometimes in technical reports, which may, or may not, exhibit appropriate quality levels. Literature fragmentation, approaches from a purely scientific point of view, disproportionate number of redundancies between results, large number of papers dealing with general ecological aspects or stating 'general' recommendations for managers, which are usually followed by terms such as 'more

research is needed to clarify' are often found in literature on biological invasions. This makes rapidly locating appropriate, reliable and direct information to help make decisions is often difficult. What has been previously done? What experiences can be considered successful for the aim achieved?. What experiences were not as successful as expected and how they can be improved?. These are essential questions arising daily in the management of bio-invasions. We are in the Era of Biodiversity Crisis, and scientific knowledge is essential to find explanations on how we must face biological invasions. Scientific studies are needed, and many are available. Unfortunately people or institutions must often pay for reaching this knowledge. Contrasting experiences of successful and failure are also needed, and these are often more difficult to find in scientific journals, as most of them show a trend toward choosing their articles by considering the scientific theoretical approach and only secondarily considering their utility for solving problems.

There is no objective reason for the current separation, which is demonstrated by the increasing number of journals devoted to real management under scientific bases.

• Approaches for Managing Biological Invasions

Aims, Success, failure and feedback are essential concepts in Biodiversity Management. These concepts seem very similar to the rational process of pure science: hypothesis, acceptance/refutation, and re-formulation. In management, successful and failed experiences are as informative as the adoption or rejection of a given hypothesis in science. In fact, management actions are much better understood and generalized when designed and analyzed under this scientific framework.

Pure scientists can benefit, for instance, from the experiences to build hypothesis on the interrelation species-environment-human interaction, and practitioners and public institutions can take advantage of techniques, methods and approaches given by previous experiences for species management to design their own programs.

Therefore, our answer to the first question is that this journal intends to serve as a platform for an improving communication of everything related to management of biological invasions, from pure scientific studies that appropriately discuss the results of their research for bio-invasions management, to mono or multidisciplinary communication of management experiences, including political, legal, and experiences with stakeholder communities.

- **Management of Biological Invasions Journal**

The journal has as main goal to link both fields in a realistic manner. Scientific quality is warranted by at least double-blind peer-review process directed by an international board in which different existing sub-disciplines are represented: marine ecosystems, inland and estuarine waters, terrestrial habitats and public institution heads of public government funded offices.

- **Multilingual and Open Access policies**

Are essential features of this periodical, as we are conscious on the broad number of authors and institutions who may experience difficulties with non-native languages. English and Spanish are the official languages. In addition, no costs are charged on the authors or institutions on publication, and reading is freely open to all interested audience. Language assistance may

be offered for free to authors upon request and evaluation by journal members.

- **Aid for proceedings and technical reports publishing**

As the main goal of the journal is enlarging the information exchange process, different monographic contributions may be published under its name, the authors and institutions retaining copyrights.

This is a new path for quality knowledge on the subject. Hopefully it will deserve consideration by readers.

- **Contents of First issue**

This issue shows a small sample of article types that can be published. **It includes new records** of ornamental succulent plant species in continental Spain with an historical review, **a demonstrative review** on the conservation risks derived from misidentification of invasive species with real examples, **a thorough research on how management of invasive fishes** is currently conducted in **Biosphere reserves**, a series of **field and laboratory experiences** devoted to **improve** the cost-efficiency balance in **management techniques of *Fallopia japonica*** and a contribution on the unexplored utility of Singular Spectrum Analysis for inspection of trends in invasive species and invaded ecosystems.

Authors

DANA, Elias D. & GRAHAM, Jim

Editorial Members of MBI (Management of Biological Invasions)
editor@managementofbiologicalinvasions.net

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