THE BARENTS EURO-ARCTIC COUNCIL

Invasive Alien Species

– examples of "door-knockers" and early-phase species in the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden

A Barents Cooperation

FACT SHEET | JANUARY 2024

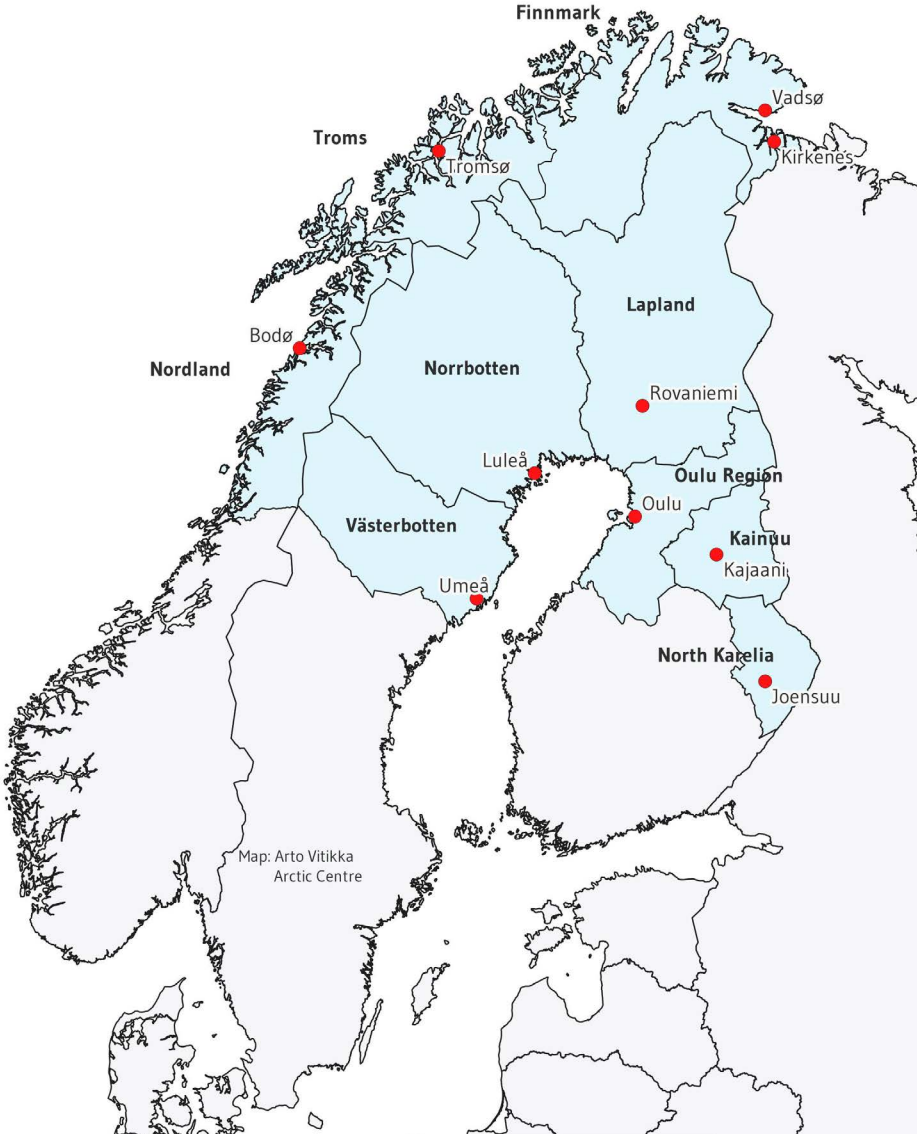
Phedimus spurius, kaukasiskt fetblad, gravbergknapp, kaukasianmaksaruoho, Caucasian stonecrop

ILLUSTRATION: JAKOB ROBERTSSON

Invasive Alien Species

Definition in the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Invasive alien species are plants, animals, pathogens and other organisms that are non-native to an ecosystem, and which may cause economic or environmental harm or adversely affect human health. In particular, they impact adversely upon biodiversity, including decline or elimination of native species - through competition, predation, or transmission of pathogens - and the disruption of local ecosystems and ecosystem functions.



Source: Arctic Centre, University of Lapland
Map of Barents region since Russia left the cooperation

PHOTO: JONAS ROTH

Dikerogammarus villosus, större rovmärla, Killer shrimp

PHOTO: CC BY SWEDISH EPA

Lysichiton americanus, gul skunkkalla, skunkkala, keltamajavankaali, Skunk cabbage

”Door-knockers” and early-phase species

Due to a harsh climate the Barents region - the northern parts of Finland, Norway and Sweden - has suffered less from invasive alien species (IAS) than southern areas of the Nordic countries. Still, there are a number of species causing problems today, and a warmer climate will most likely lead to increasing problems. The present fact sheet lists twelve examples of species that are in an early phase of establishment in the northern parts of these countries or being so called ”door-knockers” (Table 1). Door-knockers are species not yet present in a region but are causing problems in adjacent areas (Nobanis), and may be expected to be introduced or colonize a region soon. However, human activities, a warmer climate and migration of species may change this picture.

If invasive alien species are detected early during their establishment, it may be possible to facilitate management, whether eradication, population control or containment. As soon as IAS has established a foothold, such measures are often less likely to be successful. Thus, knowledge on what species are most likely to cause problems is very important. It is also important to share knowledge, experiences and practical procedures with neighboring countries. Such knowledge is significant for learning how to handle problematic species, how to get information on invasiveness of the most harmful species as well as to obtain immediate reports on newly arrived species.

PHOTO: ANDERS SALESJÖ

Neogobius melanostomus, svartmunnad smörbult, svartmunnet kutling, mustatäplätokko, Round goby

PHOTO: JAKOB ROBERTSSON

Dreissena polymorpha, vandrarmussla, sebramusling, vaeltajasimpukka, Zebra mussel

Since the species presented in this fact sheet already are present in the southern parts of one or more of the three countries there is a substantial risk of human-caused spread of IAS into the northern parts of the countries and between them. Such human activities can be reduced by knowledge of the problems and through information campaigns.

Regarding IAS, there are two categories of species that authorities and other stakeholders need to handle in somewhat different ways; species that can often be eradicated or controlled if there is an early start, and species where the only measure often is to hamper spread into the region in the first place.

The first category consists mainly of terrestrial species and includes garden plants and other land-living species. These species can often be controlled in early phases of establishment. The second category is dominated by aquatic species; Such IAS, once established in streams and larger waterbodies cannot, in most cases, be eradicated. For these species, the most important measure is to insure that they will not show up in the first place. This can be done by campaigns to inform the public not to release aquarium species into the wild or to insure that boats and equipment are cleaned and dried before transport between waters. Of course, also for the first category, information campaigns on minimizing introductions and spread are important.

ILLUSTRATION: JAKOB ROBERTSSON

Cotula coronopifolia, strandkotula, fjaereknapp, nappikotula, Brassbuttons

Table 1

Examples of ”door-knockers” and species that are in an early-phase of establishment in the Barents region. Search in Artfakta for more information.

Examples of door-knockers and early-phase species in the Barents region							
Scientific Name	**Swedish name**	**Norwegian name**	**Finnish name**	**English name**	**Main habitats**	**Highest risk category in any of Fin, Nor or Swe**	**Effect**
Campylopus introflexus	hårnervmossa	ribbesaate-mose		Heath star moss	Forests, Urban areas	x	Competition
Cotoneaster divaricatus	spärroxbär	sprikemispel	harotuhkapensas	Spreading cotoneaster	Forests, Urban areas	x	Competition
Cotula coronopifolia	strandkotula	fjaereknapp	nappikotula	Brassbuttons	Sea shores	x	Competition
Dikerogammarus haemobaphes	mindre rovmärla			Demon shrimp	Freshwaters, Brackish waters	x	Predation, competition
Dikerogammarus villosus	större rovmärla			Killer shrimp	Freshwaters, Brackish waters	x	Predation, competition
Dreissena polymorpha	vandrarmussla	sebramusling	vaeltajasimpukka	Zebra mussel	Freshwaters, Brackish waters	x	Competition
Laburnum x watereri	hybridgullregn	hybridgullregn	tarhakultasade	Goldenchain tree	Urban areas, Forests	x	Competition
Lysichiton americanus	gul skunkkalla	skunkkala	keltamajavankaali	Skunk cabbage	Wetlands, Fresh-waters, Forests, Urban areas	x	Competition
Neogobius melanostomus	svartmunnad smörbult	svartmunnet kutling	mustatäplätokko	Round goby	Freshwaters, Brackish waters	x	Predation, competition
Phedimus spurius	kaukasiskt fetblad	gravbergknapp	kaukasianmaks-aruoho	Caucasian stonecrop	Urban areas, Forests	x	Competition
*Lepus europaeus**	fälthare*	soerhare*	rusakko*	Brown hare*	Agricultural land-scapes, Forests	x	Competition
Symphoricarpos albus	snöbär	snoebaer	amerikanlumi-marja	Snowberry	Urban areas, Agricultural land-scapes, Forests	x	Competition

Species established in the actual country (outside of Barents area or very limited in that region*)

Species not observed in the actual country

Species sporadic or extremely rare

* Does not apply to Brown hare in Finland which is established in the southern and central Finnish regions of Barents.

If you observe a potential door-knocker species in Sweden, please report it via invasivaarter.nu, rappen.se or artportalen.se

If you observe a door-knocker species in Norway, please report it via: mobil.artsobservasjoner.no/submit-sightings

If you observe a door-knocker species in Finland, please report it via: vieraslajit.fi/

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See also the fact sheet Invasive Alien Species in the Barents region – the worst 50, ISBN 978-91-8773-9

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