



XXXIV ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING - BUENOS AIRES JUNE 20TH - JULY 1ST, 2011



Agenda Item: CEP 8a
Presented by: Australia, SCAR
Original: English

Alien Species Database

Alien Species Database

Information Paper submitted by Australia and SCAR

Summary

The CEP has encouraged the use of the Aliens Database maintained by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre (AADC) as the central database of non-native species occurrences in the Antarctic region. To facilitate use of the database, and to enhance its value as a tool to help identify non-native species, the AADC has added an online record entry form and a facility to upload images of observations / collections. Australia and SCAR encourage Members to promote the use of the Aliens Database, and would welcome feedback on these enhancements.

Background

At CEP X (2007) the Committee adopted a five-year work plan that identified the need to ‘establish a database of non-native species occurrences in Antarctica’. This reflected the Committee’s agreement to the recommendation of the 2006 New Zealand workshop on Non-Native Species in the Antarctic that a common database for recording new species should be established (ATCM XXIX/WP13).

At CEP XI (2008) the Committee endorsed Australia’s proposal (in ATCM XXXI/WP16) to use the Aliens Database maintained by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre (AADC) as the central database of non-native species (sometimes called alien species) occurrences in the Antarctic region (Final Report para. 267).

The Aliens Database represents a subset of species records held in the broader Biodiversity Database, which was developed by the AADC in support of the SCAR program Evolution and Biodiversity in the Antarctic (EBA) (<http://www.eba.aq>). The database is accessible via the ‘Bioregions and Aliens’ tab on the Biodiversity page of the AADC website at <http://data.aad.gov.au/aadc/biodiversity/index.cfm>.

At CEP XII (2009) Australia and SCAR submitted ATCM XXXII/IP55 *Improvements to the Alien Species Database*, which identified possible improvements to the database, including adding a facility to associate images with species records to assist with species identification, and developing an online data entry form. The Committee recognised the importance of a centralised data repository and again encouraged all Parties to input data to the database.

The draft Non-Native Species Manual prepared by the intersessional contact group on non-native species (ATCM XXXIV/34) reiterates the Committee’s earlier agreements by recommending that non-native species should be recorded, and that records should be submitted to the Aliens Database.

Enhancements to the Aliens database

Australia and SCAR seek to ensure that the Aliens Database is a functional and useful tool for scientists, managers and the CEP. The AADC is in the process of implementing the enhancements discussed in ATCM XXXII/IP55, with a view to launching the new features by CEP XIV. Figure 1 and Figure 2 illustrate how the ability to upload images of observations / collections and the online record entry form will be incorporated into the database.

The ability to associate images with a record will assist with identification of non-native species by relevant experts worldwide, and with monitoring and response. The online record entry form will streamline and provide structure to the process for submitting non-native species records, and could be set up to automatically direct new records to one or more experts who could assist with species identification.

Australia and SCAR encourage Members to promote the use of the Aliens Database, and welcome feedback on these enhancements.

Figure 1. Online form for submitting non-native species records to the Aliens Database

Aliens in Antarctica reporting

Use this form to submit details of any 'non-native' taxa observed or collected within the Antarctic Treaty Area.

Personal entering the record: Name:
 Email address:

Are you recording: an Observation: Yes No or a Collection: Yes No

Name of observer / collector:

Date of observation / collection:

Location of observation / collection: Named location:
 Latitude: North South
 Longitude: West East
 Habitat type:
 Image of location:

Specimen information: Location of where the specimen is stored:
 Specimen catalogue number:
 [if a collection was made] Image of specimen: Image 1
 Image 2

Yes No

If yes: Please set the certainty of the identification at each taxa rank

Has the observed / collected non-native species been identified? Name of person who made the identification:
 Common name: Certain Uncertain
 Family: Certain Uncertain
 Genus: Certain Uncertain
 Species: Certain Uncertain

Yes No Possibly Don't know

Do you consider this non-native species to be a threat to the local environment? Please provide reasons for your answer:

Notes: For example: species abundance at the observation / collection location; does the species appear to be either restricted to the site it was found in or does the species have the ability to spread?

Supporting information: Please upload supporting documentation (upto 3 documents) - only Word documents, PDFs and images will be accepted.

Figure 2. Example of a (mock) non-native species record with associated image

Aliens in Antarctica reporting

Your report has been saved with an Identification reference of 'ABUG-0242'.

Detail are

Personal entering the record: Name: Example name
 Email address: Example email address

Are you recording: an Observation

Name of observer / collector: Example name
Date of observation / collection: 20-May-2011

Location of observation / collection: Named location: Australian Antarctic Division, Kingston, Tasmania
 Latitude
 Longitude
 Habitat type: Car park gravel

Image of location: 

Location of where the specimen is stored: Australian Antarctic Data Centre
 Specimen catalogue number: Example01

Specimen information:
 [if a collection was made] Image of specimen: 

No

Has the observed / collected non-native species been identified? Name of person who made the identification: Example name

Common name:	Four-leaved allseed	Uncertain
Family:	Caryophyllaceae	Certain
Genus:	Polycarpon	Uncertain
Species:	P. tetraphyllum	Uncertain

Do you consider this non-native species to be a threat to the local environment? No
 Please provide reasons for your answer: Interstitial weed

Notes: One plant only. Restricted to site (carpark).