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HISTORY OF AN INVASION: *Cronius ruber* IN THE WEBBNESIA ECOREGION

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Abstract: Non-indigenous species (NIS) are considered invasive species when they induces a harm for human health or are causing a negative impact at ecological or economical scale (Ref). Nevertheless, the ecological impact stemming from a biological invasion is the most poorly understood aspect of the invasion process (Ref). As a case study, we described and discussed the time-line of a marine NIS detection in Oceanic Islands and the efforts to elucidate its potential as invasive species. Life history traits of *Cronius ruber* are summarized. Reproductive biology, fecundity, reproduction period, growth, foraging behavior and feeding ecology were presented. The invasiveness of the species was screened using the Aquatic Species Invasiveness Screening Kit. Monitoring strategies were presented to describe the evolution of their biomass, the possible introduction vectors and the time since introduction. Finally, we emphasized the importance of international collaboration and the application of long-term monitoring programs to face the major driver in biodiversity loss.

Key words: invasion process; invasive crabs; NIS; life history traits; monitoring; risk assessment tool.

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