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| <p>WORKING PROJECT TITLE</p> | <p>Impacts of guttural toads on Mauritian snails</p> |
| <p>CORE TEAM MEMBER</p> | <p>John Measey</p> |
| <p>ACADEMIC LEVEL OF THE PROJECT</p> | <p>MSc</p> |
| <p>PROJECT BACKGROUND</p> | <p>Invasive amphibians are a relatively recent global phenomenon, but their impacts are only assessed in a handful of examples (Kraus 2015). However, a robust knowledge of impacts is required to be able to classify their invasive status (Measey et al 2016).</p> <p>Snails are an important indigenous faunal group on Mauritius, with nearly 35% of 125 species now extinct and many more threatened (Florens 2013). Although there are multiple stressors on remaining species, one unquantified threat is from the invasive guttural toad, <i>Sclerophrys gutturalis</i>, originally from southern Africa (Measey et al 2017). Snails are common in the stomach contents of toads, which are present throughout diverse island habitats.</p> <p>This project attempts to quantify the impacts of invasive guttural toads on native snails in Mauritius. The study will take an empirical and experimental approach. First, the student will study stomach contents and availability of prey from multiple sites on the island. Second, an enclosure experiment will be undertaken with marked toads and snails over set periods.</p> <p>The student will be expected to work in Mauritius with a local student for extended periods. The project qualifies for a CIB bursary.</p> |
| <p>FURTHER READING</p> | <p>Kraus, F., 2015. Impacts from invasive reptiles and amphibians. <i>Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics</i>, 46, pp.75-97.</p> |



Florens, F.B.V., 2013. Conservation in Mauritius and Rodrigues: challenges and achievements from two ecologically devastated oceanic islands. In: *Conservation Biology: Voices from the tropics*, pp.40-50.

Measey, G.J., Rödder, D., Green, S.L., Kobayashi, R., Lillo, F., Lobos, G., Rebelo, R. and Thirion, J.M., 2012. Ongoing invasions of the African clawed frog, *Xenopus laevis*: a global review. *Biological Invasions*, 14(11), pp.2255-2270.

Measey, J., Davies, S.J., Vimercati, G., Rebelo, A., Schmidt, W. and Turner, A., 2017. Invasive amphibians in southern Africa: A review of invasion pathways. *Bothalia-African Biodiversity & Conservation*, 47(2), pp.1-12.

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