



## **Fragility of LTER freshwater habitats to alien species: testing the ecological correlates of alien occurrence across several taxonomic groups**

**Diego Fontaneto**<sup>1</sup>, Angela Boggero<sup>1</sup>, Alberto Basset<sup>2</sup>, Martina Austoni<sup>1</sup>, Enrico Barbone<sup>3</sup>, Luca Bartolozzi<sup>4</sup>, Isabella Bertani<sup>5</sup>, Antonella Cattaneo<sup>6</sup>, Fabio Cianferoni<sup>4</sup>, Giuseppe Corriero<sup>7</sup>, Ambrosius Martin Dörr<sup>8</sup>, A. Concetta Elia<sup>8</sup>, G. Francesco Ficetola<sup>9</sup>, Lyudmila Kamburska<sup>1</sup>, Gianandrea La Porta<sup>8</sup>, Sara Lauceri<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Ludovisi<sup>8</sup>, Elda Gaino<sup>8</sup>, Enzo Goretti<sup>8</sup>, Massimo Lorenzoni<sup>8</sup>, Marina Manca<sup>1</sup>, Aldo Marchetto<sup>1</sup>, Giuseppe Morabito<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Oggioni<sup>1,10</sup>, Cataldo Pierri<sup>7</sup>, Nicoletta Riccardi<sup>1</sup>, Giampaolo Rossetti<sup>5</sup>, Nicola Ungaro<sup>3</sup>, Pietro Volta<sup>1</sup>, Silvia Zaupa<sup>1</sup>

Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto per lo Studio degli Ecosistemi  
Largo Tonolli 50 - Verbania Pallanza - [d.fontaneto@ise.cnr.it](mailto:d.fontaneto@ise.cnr.it)



<http://www.lteritalia.it>



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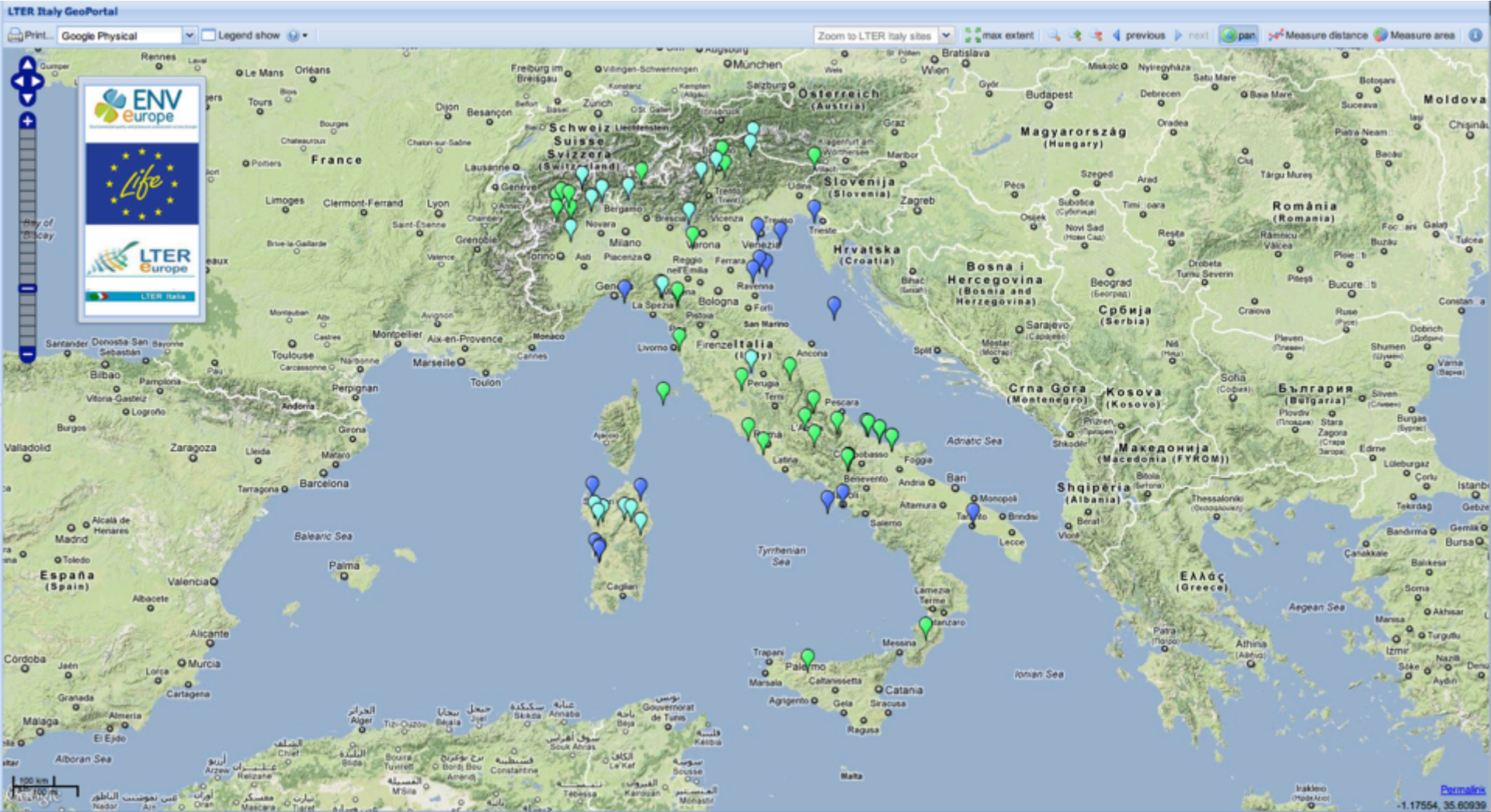
The Italian Long Term Ecological Research Network (LTER Italia) is, since 2006, part of the International LTER Network ([ILTER](#)), including 40 member countries, and of the European network [LTER-Europe](#).

The Italian initiative was promoted by the Italian Society of Ecology ([SitE](#)), by some Institute of the [Department Earth and Environment of the National Research Council \(CNR\)](#), by the National Forest Service and by other Italian research institutions. Besides SitE, the net was also supported by scientific societies such as the Italian Society of Botany, the Italian Society for Silviculture and Forest Ecology, the Italian Society of Marine Biology and the [Italian Association for Oceanography and Limnology](#).

At present LTER Italia encompasses 22 sites where ecological research is active since long time in forestal, high mountain, freshwater, transitional, coastal and marine ecosystems. The CNR research stations in Antarctica and in Himalaya are also included.

LTER Italy will help to understand the status of many important Italian ecosystems studying the effects of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.

## LTER-Italy sites



IT-01 HIGH ALTITUDE APENNINES  
IT-02 FORESTS OF THE ALPS  
IT-03 FORESTS OF THE APENNINES  
IT-04 MEDITERRANEAN FORESTS  
IT-05 LOWLAND FORESTS  
IT-06 PIANOSA ISLANDS  
IT-07 PO RIVER DELTA LAGOONS  
**IT-08 SUBALPINE LAKES**  
**IT-09 MOUNTAIN LAKES**  
**IT-10 LACUSTRINE ECOSYSTEMS OF SARDINIA**  
**IT-11 HIMALAYAN LAKES\***  
IT-12 NORTHERN ADRIATIC SEA  
IT-13 GULF OF NAPLES  
IT-14 MARINE ECOSYSTEMS OF SARDINIA  
IT-15 MARINE PROTECTED AREA OF PORTOFINO  
IT-16 LAGOON OF VENICE  
IT-17 RESEARCH STATIONS IN ANTARCTICA\*  
IT-18 ESTATE OF CASTELPORZIANO  
IT-19 NORTH-WESTERN ALPS  
IT-20 COASTAL DUNES OF CENTRAL ITALY  
**IT-21 LAKE TRASIMENO**  
IT-22 MAR PICCOLO OF TARANTO

**Availability and accessibility**

**Reliable data and metadata**

http://www.lifewatch.eu



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- [Migratory Birds](#)

## Show Cases

Search... 

The LifeWatch show cases will facilitate the development of integrative researches on key scientific issues by using already existing evidences, which will be organized and reinforced with additional LifeWatch information and made accessible to the scientific community and the general public.

The case studies thus far identified (and now in the starting phase) are:

- Monitoring Alien Species (coordinated by Italy),
- Migrating Birds (coordinated by Netherlands) and
- Wetlands (coordinated by Spain).



# Large datasets

on species presence in freshwater habitats from LTER through LifeWatch to Alien ShowCase

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALIE	Name_Species	Eunis-group	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	SITO	HABITAT	group
2	Hydrobatas norvegicus	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Anaschida	Acarina	Hydrobatidae	Sorgente Bari (Appennino TE)	C2.1	Acarina
3	Hydrobatas norvegicus	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Anaschida	Acarina	Hydrobatidae	Sorgente Crone (Appennino TE)	C2.1	Acarina
4	Hydrobatas norvegicus	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Anaschida	Acarina	Hydrobatidae	Sorgente Lagole (Appennino TE)	C2.1	Acarina
5	Phronima aprulina	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Anaschida	Acarina	Hydrophoridae	Sorgente Bari (Appennino TE)	C2.1	Acarina
6	Spioncha thersmanni	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Anaschida	Acarina	Speronchidae	Sorgente Bari (Appennino TE)	C2.1	Acarina
7	Spioncha thersmanni	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Anaschida	Acarina	Speronchidae	Sorgente Crone (Appennino TE)	C2.1	Acarina
8	Arachis diocoles	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Tubulinea	Acarinida	Acarinida	Lago Trasmeno	C1.1	Arachnida
9	Centropages aculeata	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Tubulinea	Acarinida	Centropagidae	Lago di Piedicchio	C1.2	Arachnida
10	Centropages aculeata	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Tubulinea	Acarinida	Centropagidae	Lago Trasmeno	C1.1	Arachnida
11	Diffugia limicola	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Tubulinea	Acarinida	Diffugiidae	Lago Trasmeno	C1.1	Arachnida
12	Diffugia lobotoma	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Tubulinea	Acarinida	Diffugiidae	Lago Trasmeno	C1.1	Arachnida
13	Nebula graecola	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Tubulinea	Acarinida	Acarinida	Lago Trasmeno	C1.1	Arachnida
14	Bombina pachypus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bombinatoridae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
15	Bombina pachypus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bombinatoridae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
16	Bufo balearicus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bufoinae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
17	Bufo bufo	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bufoinae	PNFC - running surface waters	C2	Amphibia
18	Bufo bufo	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bufoinae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
19	Bufo bufo	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Bufoinae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
20	Uta stansburiana	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Hydromedusa	Sieve - surface standing waters	C1	Amphibia
21	Ichthyosaura alpestris apamiae	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
22	Ichthyosaura alpestris apamiae	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
23	Ichthyosaura alpestris apamiae	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
24	Liadobates vulgaris meridionalis	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
25	Liadobates vulgaris meridionalis	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
26	Liadobates vulgaris meridionalis	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	Sieve - surface standing waters	C1	Amphibia
27	Plethorhynchus leucometaxus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	PNFC - running surface waters	C2	Amphibia
28	Plethorhynchus leucometaxus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
29	Plethorhynchus leucometaxus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	Sieve - surface standing waters	C1	Amphibia
30	Rana damalina	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
31	Rana dalmatina	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
32	Rana faticca	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	PNFC - running surface waters	C2	Amphibia
33	Rana faticca	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
34	Rana faticca	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	Sesso Frattino - surface running water	C2	Amphibia
35	Rana faticca	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
36	Rana temporaria	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
37	Rana temporaria	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	Sesso Frattino - surface running water	C2	Amphibia
38	Rana temporaria	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Anura	Ranidae	Sieve - surface standing waters	C1	Amphibia
39	Salamandrina atra	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	PNFC - running surface waters	C2	Amphibia
40	Salamandrina atra	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
41	Salamandrina atra	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Amphibia
42	Triturus cristatus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	PNFC - standing surface waters	C1	Amphibia
43	Triturus cristatus	AMPHIBIAN	Chordata	Amphibia	Caudata	Salamandridae	Sieve - surface standing waters	C1	Amphibia
44	Chironomus tentans	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Amphipoda	Gammaridae	Sieve - surface standing waters	C1	Amphipoda
45	Synurella amblyura	INVERTEBR	Arthropoda	Malacostraca	Amphipoda	Orangoryctidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Amphipoda
46	Atopoglossophina heteroclitia	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Hirudinea	Rhynchobdellida	Glossiphoniidae	Lago di Candia	C1.2	Annelida
47	Atopoglossophina heteroclitia	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Hirudinea	Rhynchobdellida	Glossiphoniidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida
48	Audouinia pigueti	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Tubificidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida
49	Audouinia pigueti	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Tubificidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida
50	Audouinia pigueti	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Naididae	Lago di Candia	C1.2	Annelida
51	Bethinotermum vegliostyanum	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Tubificidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida
52	Bethinotermum vegliostyanum	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Tubificidae	Lago di Candia	C1.2	Annelida
53	Bethinotermum vegliostyanum	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Tubificidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida
54	Chironomus tentans	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Naididae	Lago di Candia	C1.2	Annelida
55	Dero digitata	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Naididae	Lago d'Orta	C1.1	Annelida
56	Dero digitata	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Naididae	Lago di Candia	C1.2	Annelida
57	Dero digitata	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Oligochaeta	Tubificidae	Naididae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida
58	Dina lineata	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Hirudinea	Ahynchobdellida	Eprobolidae	Sieve - surface running waters	C2	Annelida
59	Eprobolus testaceus	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Hirudinea	Ahynchobdellida	Eprobolidae	Pozze 7 (Appennino TE)	C1.6	Annelida
60	Glossiphonia complanata	INVERTEBR	Annelida	Hirudinea	Rhynchobdellida	Glossiphoniidae	Lago Maggiore	C1.1	Annelida

182 sampling sites  
in 4 nodes

1632 species  
in 55 taxa



cyanobacteria



diatoms



rotifers

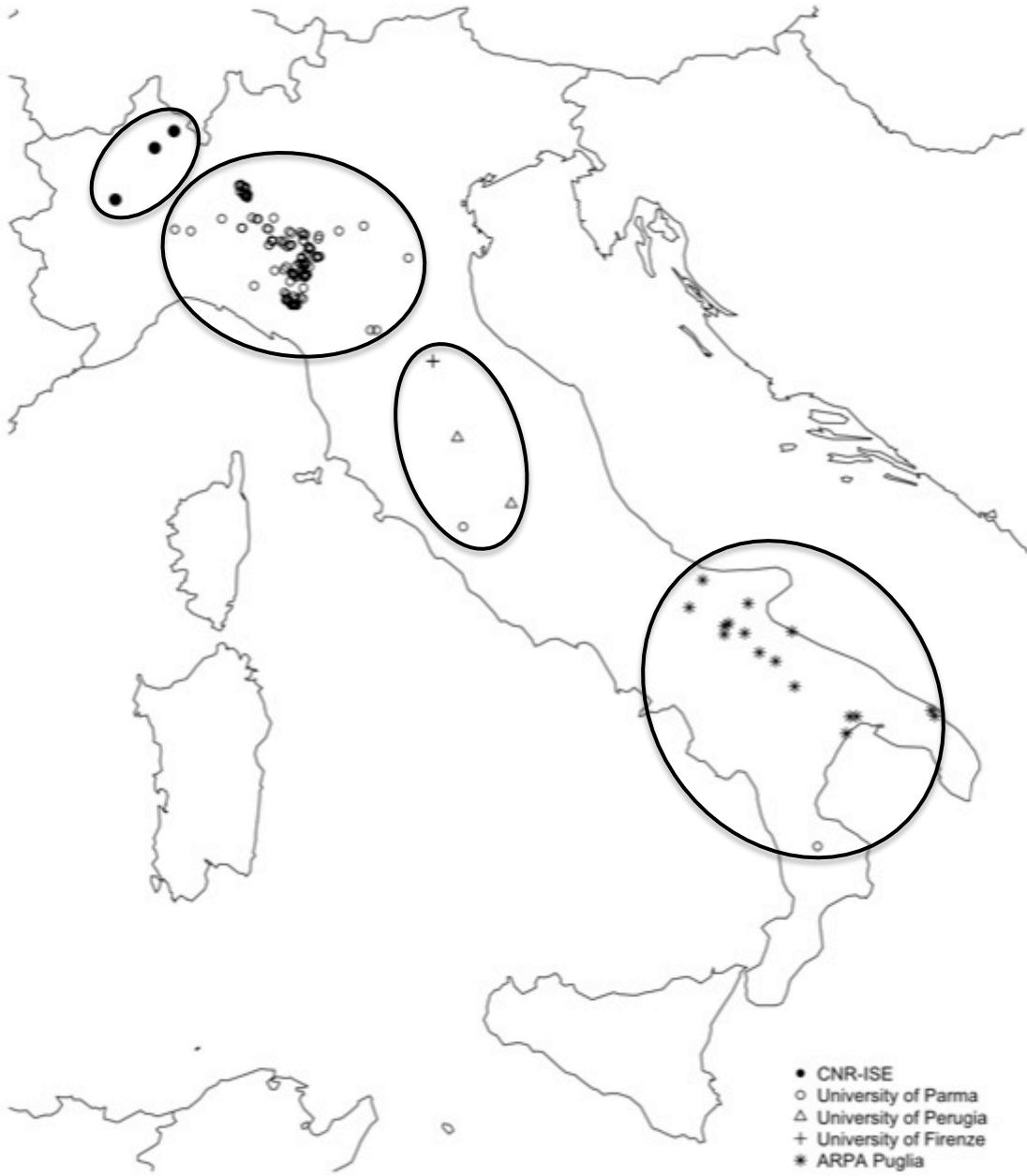


copepods

macrophytes



fish



- CNR-ISE
- University of Parma
- △ University of Perugia
- + University of Firenze
- \* ARPA Puglia

## Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

### Definition of aliens

alien species = non-indigenous species

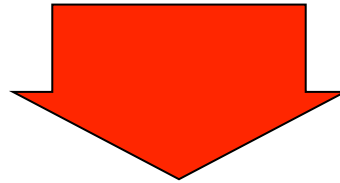
unambiguous evidence in the literature that they were **introduced** in Italy, deliberately or inadvertently by **human activities**, after the 15<sup>th</sup> century, outside their natural past or present distribution area, and successfully survive and reproduce



# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

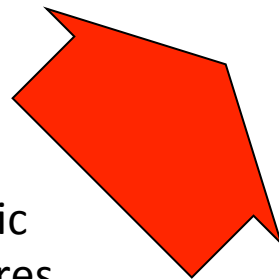
Emerging driver?

Propagule pressure

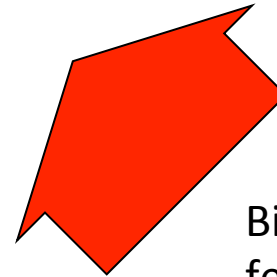


alien species

Abiotic  
features



Biotic  
features



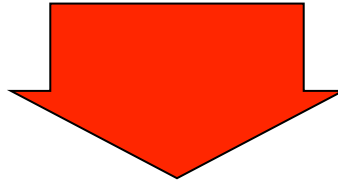
# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

Emerging driver?

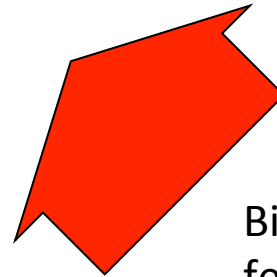
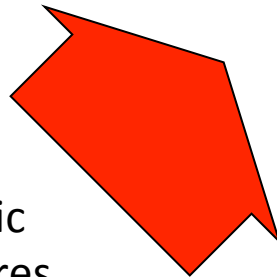
Propagule pressure



*accessibility of the site*



alien species



Abiotic features

Biotic features



*species richness*  
*body size*

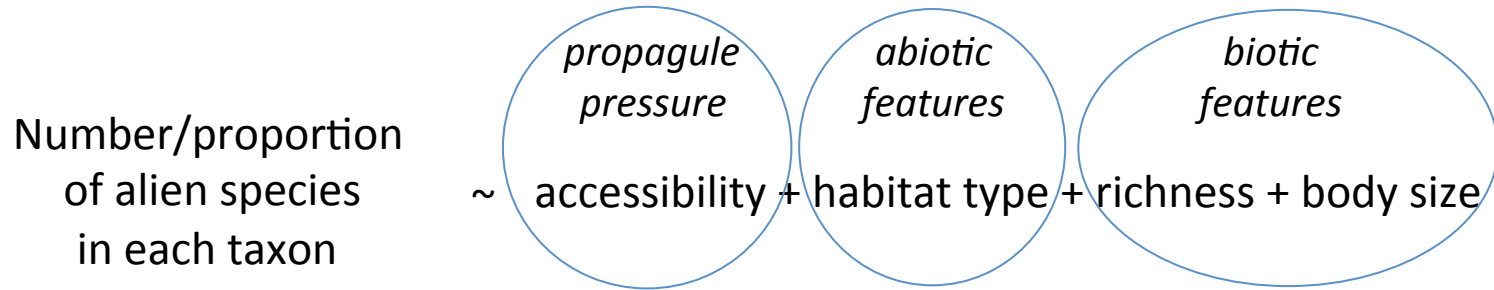


*habitat type*



# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

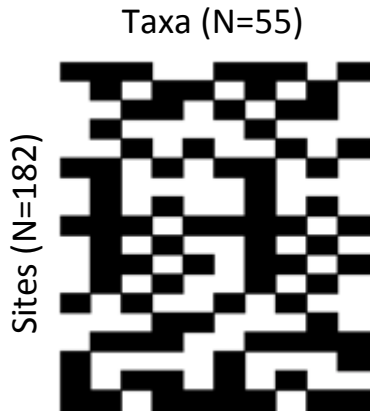
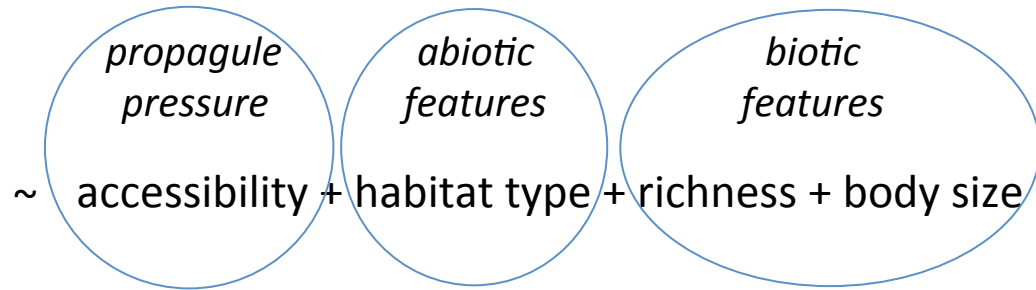
The model



# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

## The model

Number/proportion  
of alien species  
in each taxon

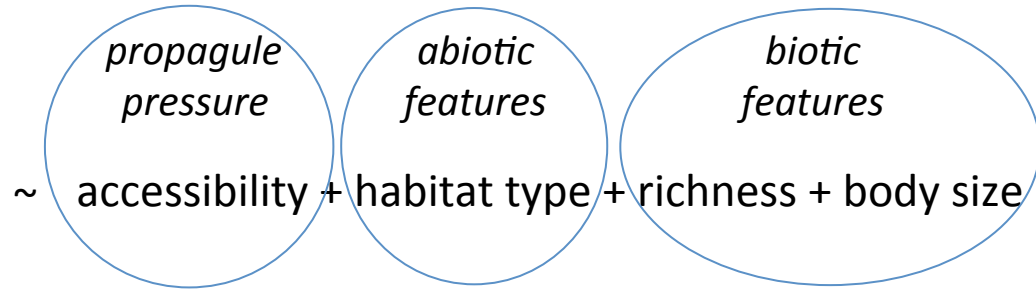


pseudoreplication + spatial autocorrelation

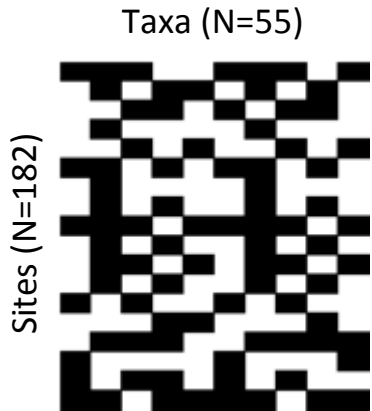
# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

The model

Number/proportion  
of alien species  
in each taxon



+ (1 | node/site) + (1 | taxon)

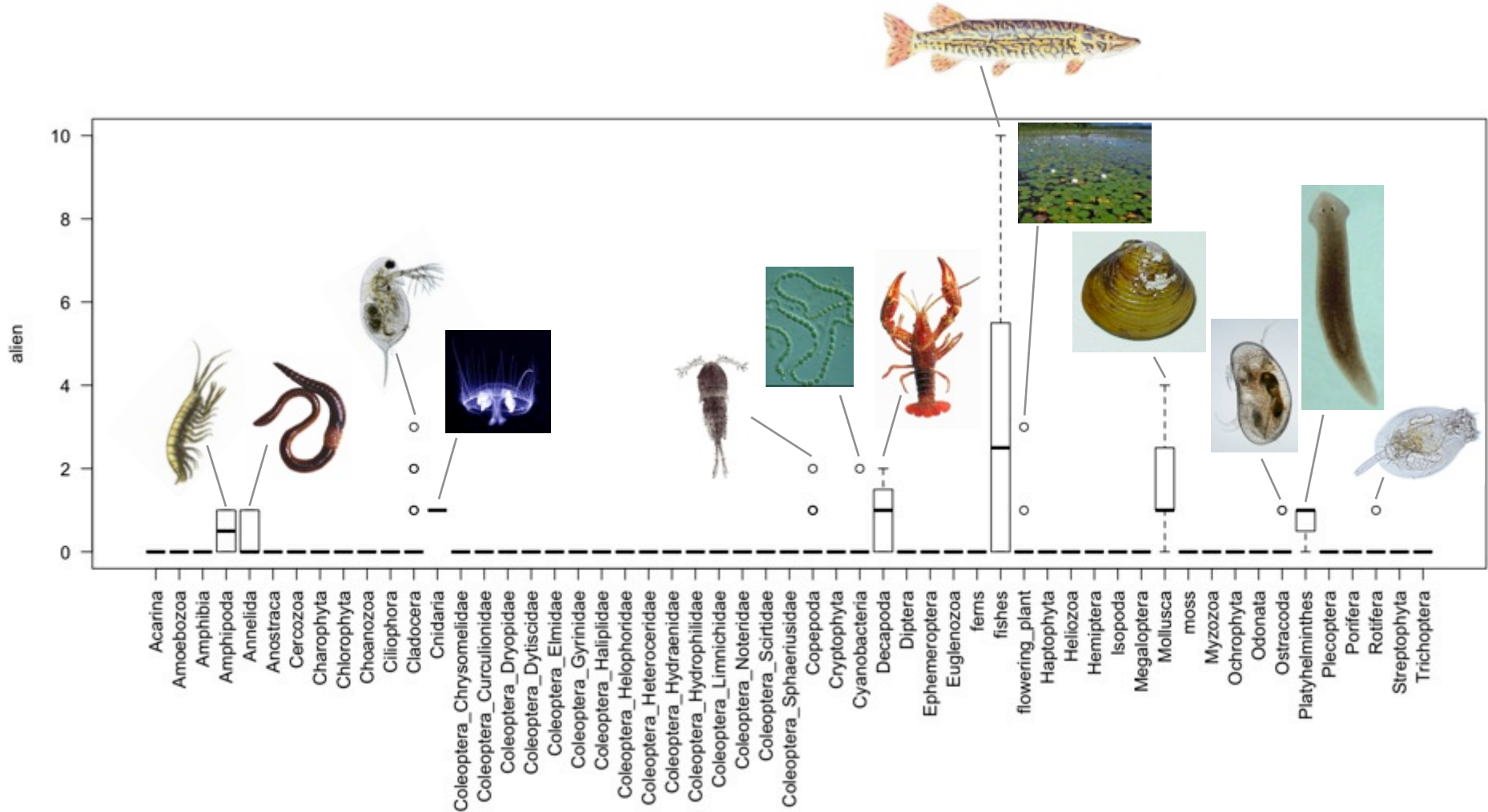


Linear Mixed Effect Models

pseudoreplication + spatial autocorrelation

# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

## The results



## Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

The results

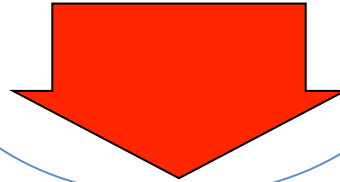
Proportion of alien species

Variable	Estimate $\pm$ SE	P-value	Relative Importance
(Intercept)	-6.72 $\pm$ 0.73	<0.0001	
Richness	-0.03 $\pm$ 0.16	0.826	0.23
Body size	0.67 $\pm$ 0.50	0.175	0.46
Habitat	-0.50 $\pm$ 0.29	0.087	0.67
Accessibility	-1.83 $\pm$ 0.51	0.0004	1.00

# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

Emerging driver?

Propagule pressure

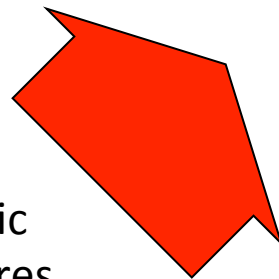


*accessibility of the site*

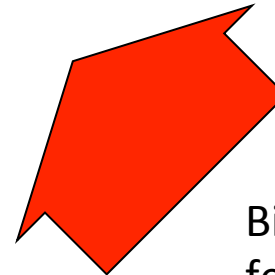


alien species

Abiotic features



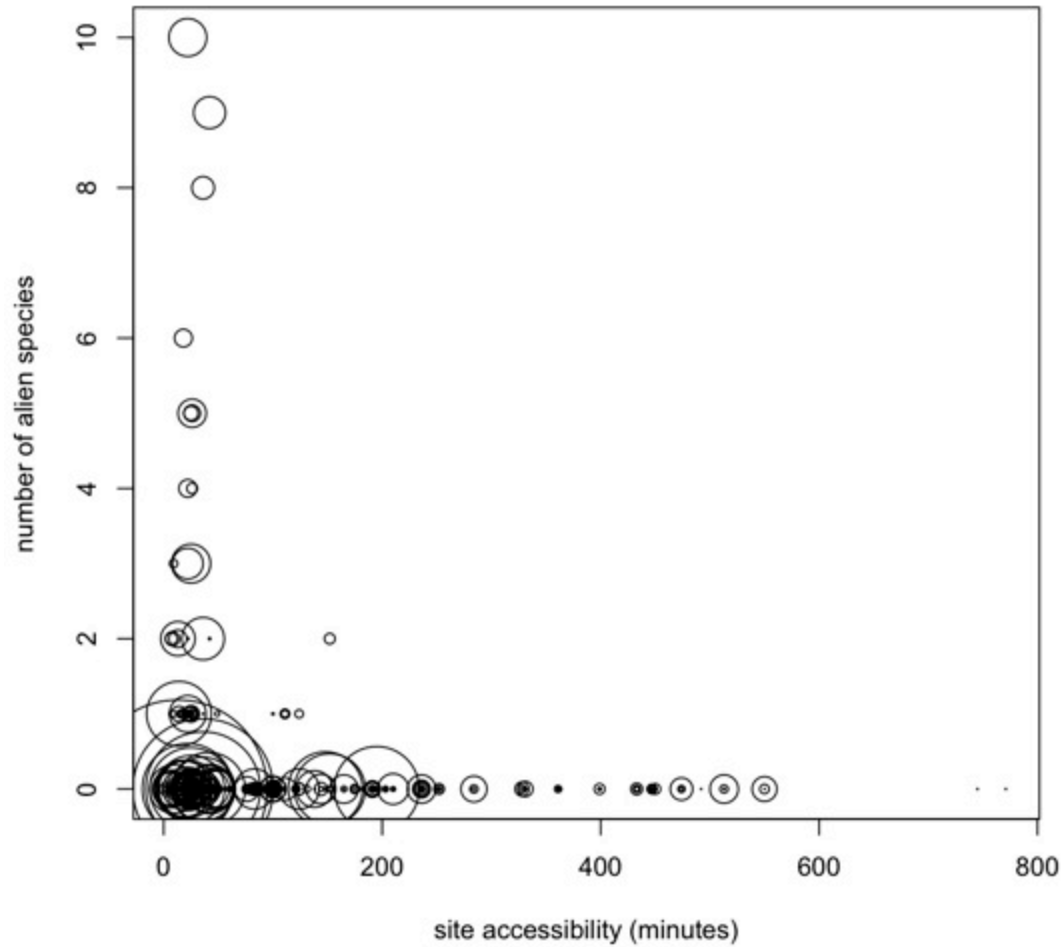
Biotic features





# Correlates of occurrence of alien species in freshwater

## Emerging driver?





## **Fragility of LTER freshwater habitats to alien species: testing the ecological correlates of alien occurrence across several taxonomic groups**

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Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - Istituto per lo Studio degli Ecosistemi  
Largo Tonolli 50 - Verbania Pallanza - [d.fontaneto@ise.cnr.it](mailto:d.fontaneto@ise.cnr.it)

