

Abstract

This literary review summarizes information about twelve reptile and amphibian species, which are nonindigenous for the Near and Middle East. The studied area comprises the following states: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Palestine. Nonindigenous species are introduced to new localities mainly via human causation. It can be either unintentional, such as transportation of the animal along with agricultural crops or exotic plants, or intentional, such as releasing the animal into the wild by breeder. Introduction of nonindigenous species can have unfortunate consequences for the stability of the indigenous ecosystem. From a human point of view, nonindigenous species can negatively affect local agriculture.

Key words: Nonindigenous species, invasive species, Near East, Middle East, ecosystem, introduction, reptile, amphibian