

Using citizen science, and various field tactics for the early detection and eradication of invasive reptiles

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Abstract:

The early detection of invasive reptiles, before they become established and widespread, is critical to increase our chances of full eradication. Here I present, some proven and effective tools to use with that effort at a low cost financially. Spain alone has over 41,179 citizen naturalists that have contributed 1,873,000 observation data points in Spain. And this number is rising daily! We will discuss ways to engage these naturalists, to the fullest extent, in hopes of getting a jump on any new invasives that show up. I will also discuss tools and tactics to follow up on any early detections, in order to fully survey these areas effectively and efficiently at a minimal cost, for years following the original detection. Having the general public help with eradication/containment efforts has proven to be successful, and here we take a deeper dive into maximizing the efforts of citizen naturalists. Once a new invasive species is detected, effective field tactics are required to survey the area to understand the extent of invasion, and I will go into those methods in great detail.