

Biodiversidad vegetal y estatus socio-económico en jardines domésticos de la Costa Brava. Implicaciones sobre el riesgo de invasión biológica

Plant biodiversity and socio-economic status in domestic gardens in the Costa Brava. Implications on the risk of biological invasions

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Domestic gardens have surprising levels of plant biodiversity, but they also act as a source of exotic species. Some of these plants may spread out of the gardens and become invasive, causing negative impacts on natural biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. In this study, we analyzed the flora in 258 domestic gardens of the Costa Brava (Catalonia). In total, 635 species were identified, of which 432 (68%) were exotic. Out of the 39 species (6.2% of all plants) considered as invasive, 25 were present in the Aiguamolls de l'Empordà Natural Park adjacent to the urban areas. A Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) showed plant distribution patterns being correlated to different socio-economic gradients with significant emphasis on high occupancy rates of the house, high incomes, and foreign residents.

Key words: domestic gardens; plant biodiversity; alien plants; invasive species; Costa Brava.