Geckos Forasteros en tu Casa, ¿Estás Seguro?

(Non-native Geckos at Home, Are you Sure?) Monitoring exotic species of geckos existing in Argentina

Objectives

- Assess the current knowledge of the exotic gecko invasion occurring in Argentine soil.
- Establish the geographic distribution of each species within Argentina.
- Raise awareness on the study of invasive species and the importance of citizen involvement for their conservation and research.

Description of citizen participation

Citizens provide data on some species of exotic geckos present in their own homes. To this end, they must fill out an online form or contact project members directly through social media or via e-mail.

Type of citizen science project

Contributory project: It is designed by scientists, and citizens participate in data collection.

Participating parties.
- Research team of the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET, in Spanish) of Argentina
- Foreign researchers
- Postgraduate students pursuing a doctorate from the National University of Córdoba (UNC, in Spanish)
- Undergraduates about to receive a university degree (in Biology) from UNC
- Biology professors
- Science communicators

Status. In progress.

Time frame. –

Frequency of project execution. Only once.

Participation period. 1 year.

Scope of the initiative. Argentina (two or more provinces).

Geographic scope. Argentina.

Project development members. It has been developed with the collaboration of both scientists and participants without formal training.

Number of participants. From 101 to 500.

Action/s involving citizen participation
- Data collection.
- Phenomenon monitoring.

Technological device/tool required. Cell phone to record the observation (on a photograph or on video) and internet access to send the information through an online form

Recruitment methods. Through social media, the press, websites and face-to-face to direct contacts.

Replicability. Don't know/No answer.

Scalability. It has not been upscaled yet.

Open access to data. Preliminary findings are shared through social media and on the project website. Final findings will be published on scientific journals and science magazines.

Feedback. All participants receive feedback on the species identification, its biological traits, the significance of the record within the context of biological invasions, and the measures to be adopted (and avoided) in each case. It is sent in the form of personal text messages through social media.

Linkage with state agency/government. –

Institutional funds. Project's own funding sources.

Awards/distinctions. –

Classification of knowledge areas (OECD).
NATURAL SCIENCES / Biological Sciences

Project leaders.
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