

Taiwan Alien Species Information Network (TASIN)

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An information network and a database on alien and invasive species in Taiwan, the Taiwan Alien Species Information Network (TASIN) and the Taiwan Alien Species Database (TASBASE) respectively, are introduced in this paper. TASIN was established under the support of the National Science Council, Republic of China (Taiwan) in 2004, based on conclusion of the Experts Meeting on Implementation of a Global Invasive Species Information Network (GISIN) held in Baltimore, Maryland USA, i.e. to share invasive species information in a standardized way among information systems around the globe. TASBASE, a relational database containing basic information of alien and invasive animals, plants and pets in Taiwan, was created by Taiwan Forestry Research Institute at the same time. With the input from 21 scientists, the TASBASE has compiled basic information of 1,725 alien and invasive species, as well as images of these species. TASIN is a managed network and uses decentralized database architecture. The network provides a user-friendly front-end web page that can be used to locate, manage, and use information of alien and invasive species from distributed databases. TASIN functions as a platform for sharing and exchanging information with other invasive species networks at the national, regional and international level so as to make contributions to the management of invasive species nationally, regionally and globally. By retrieving data from TASBASE and/or other relevant database, TASIN will be able to report and track new alien and invasive species introduced into Taiwan, to develop tools for predicting the spread of invasive species in Taiwan, to strengthen the capacity of resource managers and scientists nationwide, and improve communication among them.