

Status of Invasive Animals in Taiwan through a Survey of Pet Trade

Shih-hsiung LIANG, Jiun-hong CHEN, Ping-chun HOU, Ming-chung TU, and
Bao-sen SHIEH

Department of Biotechnology, National Kaohsiung Normal University, Taiwan
shliang@nknucc.nknu.edu.tw

Pet trade is an important pathway for introducing exotic animals into Taiwan and worldwide. From March 2004 to February 2005, a survey was conducted on aquarium and ornamental trade of exotic invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. A totality of at least 1,200 exotic animal species was identified. The scientific names, native geographic distributions, natural history, amount, and imported pathways of these exotic species were also documented. Based on the database, exotic pet animals with high invasion potential into Taiwan were identified based on an index system for assessing invasion risk. Regulation strategy and methods were suggested to authority for reducing the risk of exotic animal invasion.