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## **Contribution to the alien flora of the Maltese Islands: New records, observations on invasive species and taxonomic updates**

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The principal factors which promote the proliferation of alien plant species on the Maltese Islands are, amongst others, increased and uncontrolled importation of plants, high population densities and climate change which is leading to an ever dryer and warmer climate. However, the lack of awareness by the public about alien species and their management is perhaps the most unaddressed factor. The replacement of native species by alien ones is a serious problem in Malta especially in habitats like wetlands, sand dunes and garigue habitats close to agricultural areas where anthropogenic pressures are high.

The present work provides further knowledge, with the inclusion of some new records, about alien flora of Malta in order to assist central authorities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and relevant stakeholders in the awareness, management and control of alien species in accordance to Malta’s national environment policy. This communication deals with the reporting of new alien species observed in the Maltese Islands; supplying taxonomic corrections of some established alien species and providing pertinent observations on the widespread of alien plant species in natural ecosystems, indicating new threats and/or anthropogenic pressures.

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