

Updating APASD --- making it more informative and user-friendly

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Summary

The main source of information in the Asian-Pacific Alien Species Database (APASD) is the direct data submission by individual researcher. In order to enrich with information in APASD, continuous contribution and collaboration of researchers are necessary. Here we describe the APASD's direct data submission procedure.

Introduction

Asian-Pacific Alien Species Database (APASD; <http://apasd-niaes.dc.affrc.go.jp/>) is an online information system for international invasive alien species. The database has been established with the auspicious of international collaboration between Food and Fertilizer Technology Center (FFTC) and National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences (NIAES). APASD harbors the treasure of information directly submitted by relevant individual researcher and as such continuous updates in the database are carried out. New entries for the direct data submission procedure are performed in the following very easy five steps.

1. Contact the administrators

Individual contributors are requested to contact APASD administrator at NIAES (apasd@niaes.affrc.go.jp) providing name of the researcher, department and organization name, address, country, phone number, e-mail address, and name and description of the alien species that would like to entry. "Species to be inputted into APASD" were listed in the International Workshop on the Development of Database for Biological Invasion in the Asian and Pacific Region (November 2004, Taiwan).

In order to avoid double data entry, the administrators circulate the planning for submission to "APAliensp" members for their advices on it. It may be mentioned that the "APAliensp" is a mailing list in which researchers concerned with APASD (e.g. data

contributors, administrators, workshop members, etc.) are the members. APASD cordially invites any relevant individual to be an APaliensp member.

2.Open the data registration page

ID with password (given by the administrator) is needed to access “<https://apasd-niaes.dc.affrc.go.jp/menu.html>” and open "data registration" page.

3.Fill in the form and save it as a temporary data file

When the data registration page is opened, the individual researcher is requested to fill out the mandatory fields (country or region name, organism name, situation of establishment) and save it as a temporary data. The temporary data is not published at this stage and hence revisions can be made at any time. Any edit of descriptions and photo images can be performed via "Form for data renewal" (https://apasd-niaes.dc.affrc.go.jp/src1_us/menu.php).

APASD data record contains the following data fields;

Country or region name

Organism name

Year of invasion or detection

Native region

Situation of establishment

Taxonomic description

Expansion of distribution area

Environmental impact

Economic damage

Reproduction

Growth

Countermeasure

Writer's name and affiliation

Similar species

Host species

Photos of alien and similar species and damage

References

Habitat

The text should follow the HTML format and photo images should be JPEG files with less than 50KB. Anyone cannot find the name of alien species, similar species or

host species in the "organism name select" window are requested to contact the administrators.

4.Open the data to public

It is requested to inform the administrators when the form is filled out by the individual researcher. The administrators (and reviewers) examine the data and approve to upload in the Internet for public .

The copyright belongs to the authors/individual researchers; however, NIAES needs to obtain permission from the authors/individual researchers to use the data. If you use any photos originally taken by other researchers, make sure to obtain permission from the provider in advance and indicate provider's name in the caption.

5.Updating the data

The data/information can be modified anytime after it has appeared in AP ASD's website through browsing "data renewal" form. It is requested to contact the administrators after any revision is done which they will release as updated information on the website.

Conclusion

Yamanaka and Matsui (2003) pointed out in the International Seminar on Biological Invasions, held at Japan that - "...the value of the APASD will depend on how much information it includes. ... it will not work unless many people in each participating country become engaged in the system. Having an appropriate balance between contributors and users will enhance the integration of the system with positive feedback. Rather than the APASD being merely a one-way information network, we hope the system will be the result of active collaboration ...".

We hope the contribution and collaboration of researchers will keep APASD with an up-to-date resource for information on invasive alien species thus helping people concerned with natural/agricultural ecosystem conservation.

References

- Yamanaka, T. and Matsui, M. 2003. Development and utilization of APASD (Asian-Pacific Alien Species Database). Proceedings of International Seminar on Biological Invasions: 155-176.
- International Workshop on the Development of Database for Biological Invasion in the Asian and Pacific Region 2004. Selected alien species list. Proceedings of

International Workshop on the Development of Database for Biological Invasion in the Asian and Pacific Region.