

Mini guide to invasive alien species of Montserrat

Illustrations
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Australian Pine
Casuarine

Casuarina equisetifolia



Cane Toad
Rhinella marina



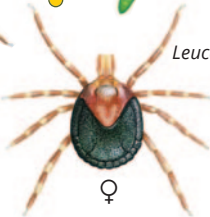
Brown Rat
Rattus norvegicus



Wild Tamarind
Leucaena leucocephala



Tropical Bont Tick
Amblyomma variegatum



● = Actual
size of insect



Fire Ant
*Solenopsis
invicta*

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Australian Pine Casuarine *Casuarina equisetifolia* is a fast-growing species that colonizes disturbed sites, causing dense stands that are low in biodiversity. It's invasive in Florida, South Africa, Brazil, and the Caribbean, affecting native flora, fauna, and soil.

Brown Rat *Rattus norvegicus* is a notorious invasive non-native species globally. Brown rats adversely impact native wildlife including seabirds but are also a nuisance to humans feeding on seeds and stored foods but also electrical wires causing disruption.

Cane Toad *Rhinella marina* introduced as biological control agents for insect pests, have become pests themselves, feeding on terrestrial animals and competing with native amphibians. Their toxic secretions cause illness and death in domestic animals and wildlife. Ingestion of eggs or adults has led to human fatalities.

Fire Ant *Solenopsis invicta* originate from South America. They have a painful sting and adversely impact wildlife and people. They spread quickly, forming large colonies, and can eat almost anything. Their sting lets them take over food sources and fight off competition. Fire Ants are now a major issue in the southern US, Caribbean, and parts of Australia and Asia.

Tropical Bont Tick *Amblyomma variegatum* originates from Africa and can transmit disease to domesticated animals and humans. It carries a microorganism that causes heartwater disease, leading to skin problems, weight loss, and even death. Farmers should be on the lookout for this tick and take steps to safeguard their animals.

Wild Tamarind *Leucaena leucocephala* is a small tree native to Mexico that is considered an invasive species in many countries due to its aggressive colonization of disturbed areas and causes significant damage to secondary vegetation.

Non-native species are living organisms that have arrived in a new region, as a consequence of human activity ~500 are currently established in Montserrat. Those that have negative impacts on the native biodiversity are termed **invasive species**. Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity, alongside climate change and habitat destruction. Non-native species can arrive in Montserrat with cargo, fresh foods and on visitors' clothing, footwear and equipment. Marine non-native species can arrive as biofouling on ship hulls or in ship ballast water. Eradicating non-native species can be difficult or impossible. It is better to prevent their introduction by using effective biosecurity measures, like cleaning and careful checking of clothing and footwear.



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