

---

## Editorial

### Exotic Species in Forest Stands of the Canary Islands

**Summary:** Invasibility by exotic plants of oceanic islands has proven to be higher compared to continental grounds. On oceanic islands, many introduced species show a limited distribution, whereas others have colonized wide areas and are pervasive, threaten to take over the remnants of native vegetation. Factors for such island susceptibility include relative species poverty, disharmony, isolation, small scale, vacant niches and exaggeration of ecological release.

Exotic species are important components of plant communities in many oceanic islands. The spread of many woody species began soon after large-scale translocations around the world promoting the invasion of species in new ecosystems once they had enough individuals, sufficient propagules and time to become. These introduced exotic species also promote the invasions of other species at the understory layer.

In this “hot issue” some introduced species of forest communities or woody species are analyzed from different perspectives, including the ability to disperse in new habitats and their effect in native plant species, how the genetic diversity can be affected because of that or how the exotic species promote the invasion of other species.

Canary Islands is particularly vulnerable to plant invasion due to its character of oceanic island and isolation. These studies can help to prevent invasion and to implement efforts to know factors that limit exotic establishment, or favor spread, along forests and to monitor thoroughly inconspicuous as well as more apparent invading plant species.

**José Ramón Arévalo Sierra**  
(*Guest Editor*)

Departamento de Ecología  
Facultad de Biología  
Universidad de La Laguna  
La Laguna 38206  
Tenerife  
España  
E-mail: jarevalo@ull.es