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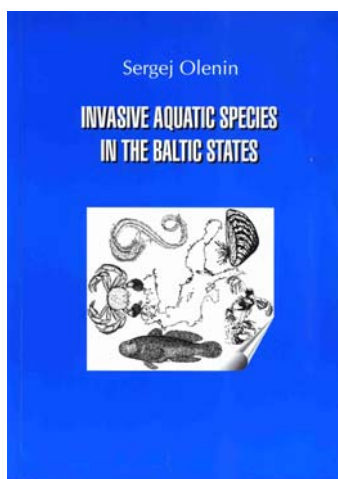
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Book Review

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Sergej Olenin, 2005, *Invasive Aquatic Species in the Baltic States*,  
Klaipeda University

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Author *Sergej Olenin*  
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The book “Invasive Aquatic Species in the Baltic States” by Sergej Olenin was published by Klaipeda University in 2005. The book is a monograph and reviews the information about non-native species and invasions in three Baltic States - Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. On 42 pages, the book includes, in addition to the text, four black and white figures, three color figures, 8 tables and 75 literature items. The book was reviewed by Prof. Erkki Leppäkoski and Dr. Dan Minchin. The author of the monograph is one of the most well-known investigators of invasive aquatic species in the Baltic Sea area, and is the present coordinator of the 30<sup>th</sup> Working Group of Baltic Marine Biologists – Non-indigenous Marine and Estuarine Organisms.

The book provides a review of invasive species in brackish and freshwaters, both in coastal and inland environments. The book is well illustrated by figures

and tables of known introductions of exotic species, ranging from the unestablished occasional specimen to established invasive species that have important impacts on the structure and function of the invaded ecosystem.

A brief introduction highlights the main aspects of aquatic invasions in the Baltic region, with notes on investigations and regulations concerning the problem. A description of the Baltic Sea environment helps to understand the history of biological invasions in the region. Differences in the environment of the three described countries are well documented.

The Baltic environment is subject to invasion mainly via canals and waterways from the Ponto-Caspian region, and from transfers by shipping from North America, East Asia and other regions of the World. An overview of invasive aquatic species in the described countries is the central component of the book. Species are described in taxonomical order, starting from the microalgae and ending with fish. The book provides information on the origin of known non-indigenous species, which may prove useful for further analysis of pathways and risk assessment.

The Baltic region also acts as a donor of species to other overseas areas. As an example, the monograph considers alien species of possible Baltic origin established in the Laurentian Great Lakes of North America. The occurrence of the same species, non-indigenous to both regions, was also noted. The author suggests that the described species exchange processes were important historically, but following enlargement of the European Union, intensification of trade and the removal of customs barriers may result in more species being transferred.

The book summarizes and makes available for the international reader much information that was present in the Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish and Russian language primary literature and was scattered in a variety sources, such as local journals, environmental reports and even unpublished data.

The work was supported by the USA Environmental protection Agency and the EU FW6 Integrated Project 506675 ALARM "Assessing Large-scale environmental risks with tested methods." This indicates that there is particular interest in the status of alien species in the Baltic States from scientists and managers in both Europe and North America.

The author is aware of the lack of an analysis of the functional impact of invasive species in the presented work. However, the described book may serve as a catalyst for attracting national and international resources to support further bilateral and multilateral works on invasive aquatic species in the Baltic Sea region.

#### About the Reviewer

**Dr. Mariusz Sapota** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Marine Biology and Ecology, Institute of Oceanography, University of Gdańsk. His main scientific interests concern the structure and functioning of marine shallow water fish communities. Investigations on non-indigenous species in the Baltic Sea constitute an important part of his research. Description of the biology and ecology of the round goby, an invasive Ponto-Caspian fish in the Gulf of Gdańsk, is one of his most important achievements.