

# Nature and Biodiversity News and Views

Have your say

An ALTER-Net initiative

**News and Views** is a web-based communication tool presenting issues about nature and biodiversity to the public. Users can learn about the issues and express their views via multi-choice questions and/or free text comments.

## Why News and Views?

News and Views is a simple way to present to people issues about the natural world. It allows people to have their say about these issues, and users can also see what others think. Nature resource managers and researchers can learn about public perceptions and views.

## What makes News and Views unique?

News and Views is different from other online places for expressing opinions:

- A simple interface designed to work on the web and in public spaces - science centres, museums, shopping centres - as long as there is access to the internet
- The content focusses on nature
- Content comes from practising biodiversity experts, members of the ALTER-Net European research network.

## News and Views development

The system is in prototype form. To help develop it further, please contact us. We welcome your input.



Select a Topic you would like to learn about

Select a Topic	Topic Title
Select a Topic	Blooming water - algal blooms
Select a Topic	Lichens - flags of distress
Select a Topic	Are biofuel crops bad for biodiversity?
Select a Topic	Harlequin ladybird threat

**Your Views: Multi-choice Questions**

A new ladybird has arrived in Britain. But not just any ladybird: this is the harlequin ladybird, the most invasive ladybird on Earth. It has already invaded much of northwestern Europe, and arrived in Britain in summer 2004. Since then it has spread rapidly north and west from the southeast coast of England, and is now established in much of mainland Britain.

There are 46 species of ladybirds in Britain, but only one is native. The harlequin ladybird is a species which is native to the east of Europe, and is a pest of crops and gardens. It is also a pest of native species for the way through large numbers of the larvae of the native species.

What should we do about it?

**Read More**

**More Information**

The scientific name of the harlequin ladybird is *Harmonia axyridis*. A national Harlequin Ladybird Day is held each year.

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Please answer the following questions on the topic:  
**Harlequin ladybird threat**

1. If a species may be beneficial to humans should it be introduced into a new place?

No, never  
 Only if the benefits are very clear  
 Yes, but only after a lot of research into its possible impacts  
 Yes, there should be no controls on introducing species

2. Do you think invasive species like harlequin ladybirds are a problem?

No, never  
 No, as long as they don't affect me  
 Yes, if they affect me  
 Yes, definitely

3. Do you think it is right for people to decide what species 'belong' where?

No, it's not up to us  
 No, because it is too hard to say what is

4. Some invasive species become accepted as part of the natural wildlife of a place. Should we eradicate these species?

No, we should never kill things: they have a right to exist anywhere



Find out more: <http://tinyurl.com/naturenv>  
or contact Andrew Sier, [arjs@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:arjs@ceh.ac.uk)