

## **IMPROVING BIO-SECURITY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS TERRITORIES: IDENTIFICATION SERVICE FOR INVASIVE INVERTEBRATE PLANT PESTS**

We would like to please inform you that the identification service for invasive invertebrate plant pests offered by the Food and Environment Research Agency has been extended until **31<sup>st</sup> March 2014** and invite you to submit samples. We would also like to thank those of you who have continued to support the project through sample submission since the launce in 2010.

We also wish to remind you that we are able provide rapid advice, wherever possible, when bio-security threats are detected, in the form of guidance on appropriate measures in line with the SPS Agreement (Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measure) and following international standards i.e. ISPMs, with input from Fera's Plant Heath Policy and Consultancy Teams.

Defra recognises that the UKOTs have a rich biodiversity that is under threat from invasive species. Accurate and rapid species identification for suspect non-native species is fundamental to the enforcement of eradication and quarantine measures to protect biodiversity and agriculture. There continues to be no charge for this service which is funded by Defra.

Submitting samples:

If you would like to receive support in the diagnosis of plant pest invertebrates please contact us by email at [ukot@fera.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ukot@fera.gsi.gov.uk) and we will provide you with details of how to preserve samples and where to send them.

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