**Can globally noxious species be controlled?: some insights from southern Brazil**

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The current trends of human disturbances produce severe impacts on global ecosystems. Habitat degradation often elicits the invasion of exotic species that cause serious damage to local biodiversity and socioeconomic activities. The valuable and sensitive mosaic landscapes of Rio Grande do Sul, southern Brazil, with over 3000 species, are subjected to the invasion of a highly pervasive species. Gorse, *Ulex europaeus L.*, is a shrub native to southwestern Europe, that out-competes native flora, alters habitat structure, reduces available native grasslands and generate important economic losses to local producers. Despite being one of the 100 worst global invasive species, little information still exists on habitat structure, ecological dynamics and invasiveness in most of its exotic range. This is especially true for the Brazilian case. We considered several approaches, which include studying landscape patterns of expansion, biotic interactions and performing controlled field tests of seed germination. Our preliminary results indicated that both light availability and grazing pressure exert an influence of gorse population structure. This study suggests a two-way mechanism to control gorse by promoting habitat heterogeneity and adequate grazing pressure. Lessons from this study could help to implement policies enhancing the conservation of frequently neglected ecosystems such as the forest-grassland mosaics.