

WBP ACADEMIC/VOLUNTEER RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL 5

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| Project title: | Implications for the biology and ecology of Welsh benthic marine communities of the spread and establishment of the red algal <i>Heterosiphonia japonica</i> | | |
| Lead Organisation: | Natural Resources Wales | Project leader: | Lucy Kay |
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| Collaborating institutions: | | | |
| Location | | | |
| Start date: | | Completion required by: | |
| Project rational/ What is the specific question being asked? | | | |
| <p>The project proposes studies to investigate the implications of the red alga <i>Heterosiphonia japonica</i> on benthic marine communities in Wales.</p> <p><i>Heterosiphonia japonica</i> has rapidly spread around much of the UK and has been recorded as occurring in a variety of rocky and mixed infralittoral communities. Its presence has been observed as varying from a few individuals present in a location to <i>H. japonica</i> forming a dense and dominant turf over considerable areas to the exclusion of native red algal species. There are reports of it smothering Serpulid reefs of Ireland (Lin Baldock pers comm) and smothering the upper circalittoral in Scotland.</p> <p>http://search.conduit.com/results.aspx?q=serpulid+reef+covered+with+Heterosiphonia+japonica+in+Ireland&Suggest=&stype=Results&FollowOn=True&CUI=UN41672896943055093&UM=UM_ID&SelfSearch=1&SearchType=SearchWeb&SearchSource=15&ctid=CT3220468&octid=CT3220468</p> <p>Very little is known about the implications of the establishment of this species on the biology and ecology of Welsh benthic marine communities, nor its persistence in the localities where it has become established.</p> | | | |
| Can this project be divided into more than one project? If yes, clarify above | | | |
| Aims: | | | |
| Scale of project? | Site-specific? Name site & any designation. | Range of sites? Name sites & any/ designation. | Suggested site/s/locations? |
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|--|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Access to previous data/reports on site? | | YES/NO | RA¹ attached | YES/NO |
| Logistics managed by: | Lead Organization: | YES/NO | Researcher | YES/NO |
| Opportunity for follow-on student placement with Lead Organisation? | | | | YES/NO |
| Training element/skills required: | | | | |
| Expected deliverables: | | | | |
| Resources required: | | | | |
| Any special considerations: | | | | |

Return completed form to Tracey.Lovering@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk
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¹ RA: Risk Assessment