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ABSTRACT eBOOK



The non-indigenous macroalgae's hide-and-peek play

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The colonization rate of Atlantic oceanic archipelagos by non-indigenous species of marine macroalgae has been shown to be higher than in continental locations. The NIS macroalgae list in the Azores that started to be compiled since the late eighties has been updated by data collected during the regional monitoring program of marine NIS. Under this program monitoring sites have been mainly located in marinas and their neighboring areas. The present study analyses the observed NIS communities' composition in the monitored areas, and the natural ranges of the observed non-indigenous macroalgae. Unexpectedly, non-indigenous macroalgae records are much lower in marinas than in natural areas, a pattern opposite to that exhibited by non-indigenous sessile invertebrates. Biotic resistance posed by stronger invertebrate competitors in marinas is raised as one of the explanations for the observed pattern. The tropical to subtropical native distribution of many of the recent arrivals supports the on-going tropicalization trend of the Azores biota and raises concerns on further indirect effects of climate change on local marine biodiversity.

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