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First record of common Myna, *Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766) in Libya

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ABSTRACT

Background: Invasive or alien species are organisms that exist outside their natural habitat, including plants and animals. They are considered as one of the greatest threats to native biodiversity. The common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (Linnaeus, 1766) is considered one of the most dangerous invasive or alien species. It is a carnivorous, ferocious, and strong competitor species that can mimic different voices.

Case Description: A pair of Mynas was observed in the Ain Zara region in Tripoli on June 19, 2024, among the houses in the area. Some locals confirmed that there is a group gathering in a garbage place near houses in the same area.

Conclusion: The spread of invasive species remains a major threat to native biodiversity, especially the common Myna. However, it poses a threat to birds in Libya if the necessary measures are not taken to control their spread.

Keywords: Common Myna, Invasive, Alien, Libya.

Introduction

Invasive or alien species are organisms that exist outside their natural habitat, including plants and animals, and they are considered one of the greatest threats to native biodiversity (Dyer *et al.*, 2017). Despite the integration of some alien species into the new environment and their consideration as commercial species, such as what occurred with some fish species (Streftaris and Zenetos, 2006). However, the impact of invasive species remains clear and evident when the invasive species is a highly competitor to local species and may lead to their extinction. Birds do not have geographical boundaries but are known for their regions and migrations through their geographical distribution, according to globally known migration routes. However, if this system is breached and the migration balance is disturbed, perhaps due to environmental factors, including climate change, or an imbalance due to human intervention in introducing these species. The common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (Linnaeus, 1766) is considered one of the most dangerous invasive or alien species. It is a carnivorous, ferocious, and strong competitor species that can mimic different voices. It is considered one of the most successful birds to have adapted to the urban environment (Pell and Tidemann, 1997).

Case Details

A common Myna was observed in the Ain Zara region in Tripoli (32°49'24.6"N 13°16'29.4"E) on June 19,

2024. A pair of Myna is found among the houses in the area (Fig. 1), but when some locals were interviewed, they confirmed that there are more than one pair, i.e., a group sometimes gathers in a garbage place near the houses in the same area.

Discussion

The entry of these species, which is native to the Asian continent, is likely via pet trading. However, it was not unlikely that it would have entered Libyan territory, particularly after it was first recorded in Egypt in 1998 (Millington, 2000), and spread rapidly to several Egyptian cities and regions (Rabia *et al.*,



Fig. 1. Common myna on the roof of a house in the Ain Zara area.

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2015; Orabi *et al.*, 2024). However, because it is not recorded in the eastern region of Libya, it is likely that it was brought in by traders and accidentally released into the environment. This possibility was confirmed by recording these species in Algeria, with the confirmation that they escaped from pet traders (Nedjah *et al.*, 2023).

Conclusion

The spread of invasive species remains a major threat to native biodiversity and causes changes in the natural composition of biodiversity in the areas it enters, especially the common Myna, regardless of how it spreads or introduces new environments outside its natural range because it has more abilities that make it a strong and successful competitor in all environments. This threat poses a species to the lives of birds in Libya if the necessary measures are not taken to control their spread.

Acknowledgment

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Conflict of interest

The authors of this case report declare that they have no conflicts of interest to declare with any person or institution.

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Authors' contribution

The bird was photographed by Mr Elkrew on the roof of his house in the same area as that reported and identified by Prof. Etayeb as an ornithologist. The manuscript has been written and reviewed by the authors.

Data availability

All supporting data on the findings of this report are available in the manuscript. Any further data required are available from the corresponding author.

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