

Keeping America Safe from Malacoterrorism: delaying the introduction and establishment of invasive snail and slug pests

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Abstract: As part of the globalization of the world's economy and eventual homogenization of the world's fauna and flora, we face a continuing onslaught of invasive species, arriving at airport, seaports and border crossings. Snails and slugs, representing serious threats to the nation's food supply, environment and public health, are major components of these invasions, most species arriving accidentally, but some being introduced intentionally. The US Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, CDC Atlanta, and Homeland Security, as well as state governments, are investing enormous resources to stem the tide of non-native species, with the purpose of delaying their introduction and establishment.