

Invasive Species in Anguilla

An investigation into their Origin and Habitats

By

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Location

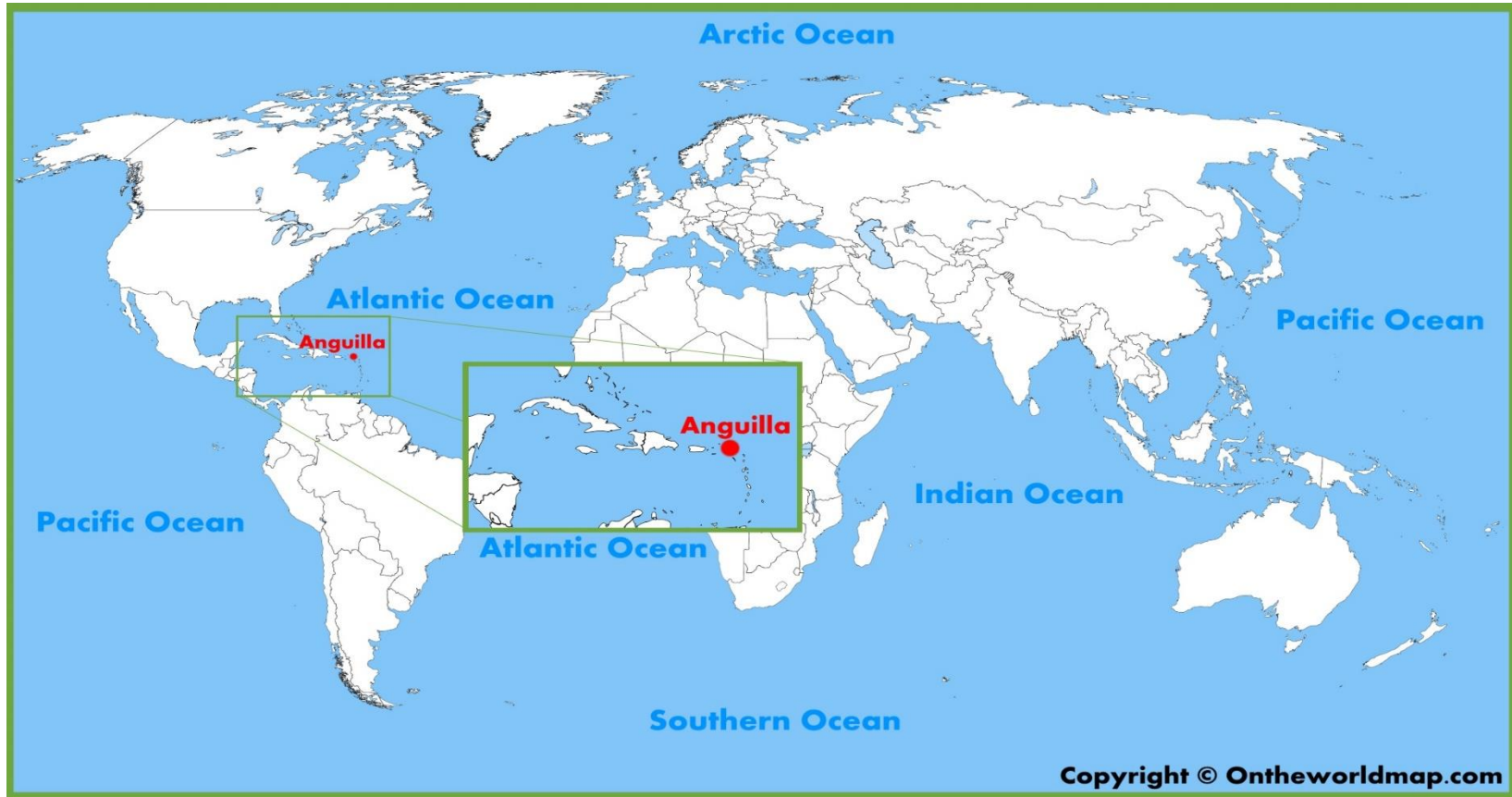
Brief Background to Anguilla

- **Location: 18.1 N 63.2 W**
- **Most Northerly of Leeward Islands**
- **British Colony since 1650**
- **35sq miles (91km²)**
- **Population 15,000**



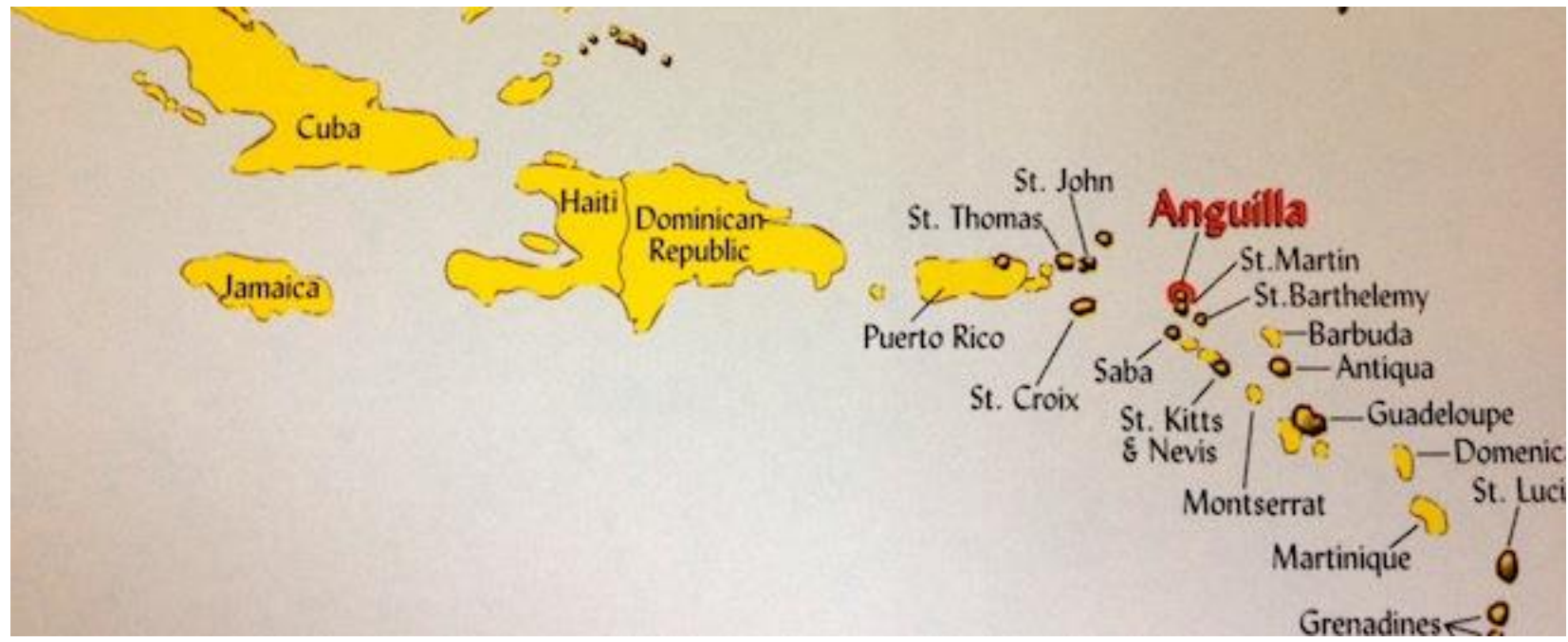
Anguilla Location

Global Context:



Map of Anguilla

Caribbean Context:



Anguilla

- **Generally Flat and Low Lying land**
- **Made up of coral and limestone**
- **Mainly shrub vegetation**



Anguilla With Satellite Islands



Definition of Alien/Invasive Species

- **Alien Species-** A species that has been intentionally or unintentionally introduced to an area, location or region where it does not occur naturally;

- **Invasive Species-** A species that has established and spread – or has the potential to do so- outside of its natural distribution range, and which then threatens ecosystems, habitats and/ or other species, potentially causing economic or environmental damage, or harm to human health;



Invasive Species ...

No Place is Immune to Alien Species

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A Threat to Global Biodiversity (Plant & Animal Life)...especially on small Islands;

* Can be easily dispersed and spread in every country



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Global Invasive Species Database listed Anguilla
with ...212 Alien Species



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Giant African Snail; Rats; Casuarina;

Mealy Bug; Cuban Tree Frog; Fire Ants;

Wild Moses; Green Iguana; Scaveola;

Army Worms; Feral Cats; Coral Snake

Oleander Caterpillar; Mud Wasps; Yellow dada



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Green Iguana



Native to: Tropical areas of Latin America; Guadeloupe;

Entry into Anguilla? 1995

Means of Entry? Accidental...natural

Method of Entry? Hurricane Luis..floating on logs of wood;

Habitat: Coastal area, wetlands, mangrove forested areas;

Impact: Can interbreed with Anguilla local Iguana;



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Cuban Tree Frogs



Native to: Cuban, Bahamas

Entry into Anguilla? 1990's ...1995-'99

Means of Entry? Accidental (container)

Method of Entry? Via containers...Hidden in imported plants;

Habitat: Around homes...in damp areas...around wetlands;

Impact: Affect water supply; noise at night;



Invasive Species in Anguilla Feral Cats



* Long established species

Native to: East Mediterranean

Entry into Anguilla? 17th Century

Means of Entry? Introduced...European exploration
(Domesticated)...Feral population expanding;

Method of Entry? By people as pets;

Habitat: Around homes...close to source of food; coastal and
forested areas;

Impact: Kill native species such as lizards, Iguanas, Birds;



Rats...

Norway Rat..Black Rat

* Long established species



Native to: Europe, NE china,& India;

Entry into Anguilla? 17th Century

Means of Entry? Accidental..hidden in cargo....sunken ships around the coast; European exploration;

Method of Entry? By ships/cargo;

Habitat: Around/in homes...close to source of food; coastal area, agricultural fields;

Impact: Impact farmers, Residential households, Diseases;



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Mud Wasp



Native to: Australia..several species

Entry into Anguilla? Unknown

Means of Entry? Accidental...Container...hidden in cargo....plants?

Method of Entry? Ships

Habitat: Around homes...under eaves of roofs, windows, etc.

Impact: Mud nests on Residential homes



Invasive Species in Anguilla Lionfish



Native to: Indo Pacific Region

Entry into Anguilla? Around 2010

Means of Entry? Accidental...?

Method of Entry? Ocean Currents

Habitat: Around Reefs/other structures in the sea;

Impact: Eats main fishes that beautify and protects our reefs from being overcrowded with Algae;



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Vervet Monkey



Native to:

Entry into Anguilla? Unknown

Means of Entry? Introduced Pets;

Escaped after Hurricane Luis 1995;

Habitat: Forestry Area near residential homes;

Impact: Potential Threats to human and agriculture;



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Giant African Snails



Native to: East Africa (Kenya...Tanzania)

Entry into Anguilla? Around 1999-2004

Means of Entry? Accidental? Container...hidden in cargo....plants... Introduced? Imported by individuals??

Method of Entry? Ships?...individual?

Habitat: Around homes...close to damp areas; in cool areas;

Impact: Snail feces on walls of residential homes;



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Mimosa:

Long Established Invasive Plant
Entry into Anguilla? Unknown
Means of Entry? Unknown



Habitat: Mainly overtake disturbed areas;Roadsides

Impact: Overtakes landscapes and out compete native vegetation;

Impacts of Invasive Species



Local Species

Rondeletia anguillensis



Anguilla Endemics

Black Lizard (*Ameiva corax*)



Anguilla Endemics : Antillean Iguana



Invasive Species in Anguilla

Today.....invasive species continue to spread and affect the biodiversity and people of Anguilla! However, the Department of Environment and other agencies are doing their best to develop initiatives to sensitize the public and mitigate the impacts.

