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Horizon-scanning for invasive alien species with the potential to threaten biodiversity and ecosystems, human health and economies in Britain

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Invasive non-native species (INNS) are defined as species, introduced through human action outside of their native range, that have the ability to spread causing damage to the environment, the economy, our health or the way we live (Roy, Bacon et al. 2012). Over the last century there has been a dramatic increase in the movement of non-native species around the world (Seebens, Blackburn et al. 2017, Seebens, Blackburn et al. 2018), as a consequence of increasing international trade and travel (Hulme, Roy et al. 2009, Seebens, Essl et al. 2015).

Here, we present the outcomes of a consensus approach which repeated the process undertaken for Britain in 2013 (Roy, Peyton et al. 2014) to derive ranked lists of INNS likely to arrive and establish over the next ten years. Previously only biodiversity and ecosystem impacts were considered but here the approach was extended to human health and economic impacts (Roy, Peyton et al. 2019).

Methods

We used an adapted version of the consensus method (Sutherland, Fleishman et al. 2011) for a horizon scanning approach previously used to derive a ranked list of potential Invasive Non-Native Species with high impact on biodiversity and ecosystems in Britain (Roy, Peyton et al. 2014) and Europe (Roy, Bacher et al. 2019) (Figure 1). We extended the approach to consider human health and economic impacts. Furthermore, we also considered which of the INNS prioritised within the three separate impact (biodiversity and ecosystems, human health and economic) lists should be considered the highest priority. As such we derived four ranked lists comprising potential Invasive Non-Native Species with high impact on:

- 1. biodiversity and ecosystems
- 2. human health
- 3. economies

and a fourth list constituting the INNS considered to be the highest priority from the three other lists.

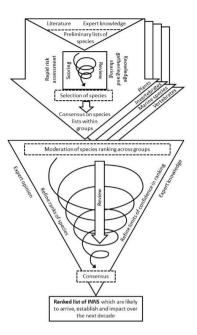


Figure 1. Horizon scanning process, based on consensus method, to derive a ranked list of INNS which are likely to arrive, establish and have an impact in Britain over the next decade.

Geographic scope: Britain. The geographic scope of the search for potential INNS was global but with the following restrictions:

- (i) Are absent or not considered established in GB
- (ii) Have documented histories of invasion and causing undesirable impacts in other regions worldwide with similar climatic conditions
- (iii) Traded within GB or are present in areas that have strong trade or travel connections with GB and where there is a recognised potential pathway for arrival.
- (iv) Are present in captivity including gardens, zoological parks, aquaculture facilities and glasshouses but not present in the wider environment.

Temporal scope: Invasive non-native species likely to arrive and establish in the next 10 years. This temporal limit informs the relevance of, for instance, long-term climate change projections.

The process involved a sequence of steps which were outlined to the participants through e-mail correspondence (Roy, Peyton et al. 2019).

Thematic groups: Species were considered within four broad thematic groups -

- Plants (lead: Oli Pescott, UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology; Katharina Dehnen-Schmutz, University of Coventry)
- Terrestrial invertebrates (lead: Alan Stewart, University of Sussex)
- Freshwater invertebrates (lead: David Aldridge, University of Cambridge)
- Vertebrates (lead: David Noble, BTO)
- Marine species (lead: Jack Sewell, MBA; Elizabeth Cottier-Cook, Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) Associate Institute)

Lists of experts are provided in Annex 1. Consultation between experts was completed both through e-mail discussions in advance of the workshops and through the workshop breakout groups.

Scoring of species: Experts were advised that the scoring approach was not absolute but to provide an initial ranking of all potential INNS. This context was important to ensure that experts were empowered to use expert judgement alongside available evidence sources (Roy, Peyton et al. 2020). Experts were asked to score each species within their thematic group for their separate likelihoods of: i) arrival, ii) establishment, iii) magnitude of the potential negative impact on biodiversity or ecosystems, human health or economies. A 5-point scale from 1=very low to 5=very high (Blackburn, Essl et al. 2014, Bacher, Blackburn et al. 2017) was adopted. The scores from each expert within each thematic group were then compiled and discussions within the thematic groups (at the workshop) led to an overall agreed impact and confidence score for each species. While acknowledging that the scores were only for guidance, an overall risk score for each species was calculated as the product of the individual scores for arrival, establishment and impact on biodiversity. With a 3-criterion, 5-point scoring system, this produces a maximum score of 125.

The workshop was held at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Wallingford 5-6 December 2019. The aims of the workshops were outlined and then an overview of the INNS selected by each thematic group was presented to inform the other participants of the range of species and their life-histories within each group, enabling subsequent review and moderation of the scores within the breakout sessions for each thematic group. During the breakout session, participants reviewed the species lists (adding or removing species, justifying and moderating scores and to consider levels of confidence attached to scores). The lists of INNS from across the thematic groups were collated into single lists for each of the impact categories (biodiversity and ecosystems, human health or economic). In plenary, experts were invited to review, consider and refine the rankings of all species through plenary discussion. Again scores were adjusted accordingly. The end result was three ranked lists of INNS with the potential to arrive establish and pose a threat through biodiversity and ecosystem, human health or ecosystem, human health or

For all the INNS included within the priority lists we documented the pathways (Harrower, Scalera et al. 2018) by which they are most likely to arrive; this information is currently under review.

Combined horizon scanning list

Following the workshop a fourth list was developed which considered which of the INNS would be considered as having the highest risk when considering all three impact categories – so called combined impact list. The list was derived through two on-line surveys. *Initial selection of INNS for combined list*

An initial on-line survey was developed that included all INNS (n=57) within the lists derived for each separate impact category. The on-line survey was circulated to all the experts (Annex 1) who had previously contributed to the horizon scanning to rank INNS within each of the three impact categories. The experts were invited to indicate whether a species should be ranked as 1-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40 when considering the magnitude of biodiversity and ecosystem, human health <u>and</u> economic impact simultaneously. Experts were advised that a species within the top 10 could be one that is predicted to have moderate impacts across all three categories but it could also be a species that would have catastrophic impacts in just one category.

The survey was completed by 12 experts (with representation from all the thematic groups) but not all experts assigned each species to a rank, so there was a variable number of responses per species. Therefore, only species with more than 8 responses were included in the next on-line survey.

Deriving the final combined horizon scanning list

The species list for the second on-line survey was derived by using a scoring system (assigning 5 points for species in 1-10 band to 1 point for species in 41+ band). The average scores were then calculated noting that there were a variable number of responses for each INNS. Experts were invited to note through an on-line survey:

- 1. agreements or disagreements in relation to whether the INNS should be included within the combined list
- 2. Rank position of the INNS within the list
- 3. any arguments for species not listed that should be included from the other lists

There was also an option for the experts to add comments. 19 responses were received (although there were only comments from 18 of the experts).

The resulting combined impact list comprised 30 INNS ranked in two bands: 1-15 and 16-30.

Results

Biodiversity and Ecosystem impacts

A total of 243 species was compiled into a long list for consideration during the workshop. The group reached a consensus on the ranking of the top 100 species in bands: 1-10, 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-100.

Rank	Species name	Common name	Workshop group	Environment
1-10	Corbicula fluminalis	Asian clam	Freshwater invertebrate	F
1-10	Gyrodactylus salaris	salmon fluke	Freshwater invertebrate	F
1-10	Hemigrapsus sanguineus	Asian shore crab	Marine	М
1-10	Myriophyllum heterophyllum	American water-milfoil	Plant	т
1-10	Neogobius melanostomus	round goby	Vertebrate	F
1-10	Procyon lotor	raccoon	Vertebrate	т
1-10	Agrilus plannipennis	Emerald ash borer	Terrestrial invertebrate	т
1-10	Akebia quinata	Chocolate vine	Plant	т
1-10	Baccharis halimifolia	Tree groundsel	Plant	т
1-10	Procambarus fallax	marbled crayfish	Freshwater invertebrate	F
11-20	Anoplophora glabripennis	Asian longhorn beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
11-20	Homarus americanus	American lobster	Marine	М
11-20	Lithobates catesbeianus	American bullfrog	Vertebrate	т
11-20	Sinanodonta woodiana	Chinese giant mussel	Freshwater invertebrate	F

Table 1: Invasive Non-Native Species with high likelihood of arrival, establishment and **biodiversity** impacts within Britain¹

11-20	Acer rufinerve	Snakebark maple	Plant	Т
11-20	Anoplophora chinensis	Citrus longhorn beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	т
11-20	Bellamya chinensis	Chinese mystery snail	Freshwater invertebrate	F
11-20	Dikerogammarus bispinosus	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
11-20	Mnemiopsis leidyi	American comb jelly	Marine	М
11-20	Mulinia lateralis	the dwarf surf clam	Marine	М
21-30	Nyctereutes procyonoides	raccoon dog	Vertebrate	Т
21-30	Oncorhynchus gorbuscha	Pink salmon	Vertebrate	F
21-30	Pontogammarus robustoides	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
21-30	Threskiornis aethiopicus	African sacred ibis	Vertebrate	F
21-30	Celtodoryx ciocalyptoides	cauliflower sponge	Marine	М
21-30	Jaera istri	An isopod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
21-30	Phyllostachys nigra	Black bamboo	Plant	т
21-30	Vespa velutina	Asian hornet	Terrestrial invertebrate	т
21-30	Amelanchier spicata	Thicket shadbush	Plant	т
21-30	Proterorhinus semilunaris	tubenose goby	Vertebrate	F

31-40	Echinogammarus ischnus	bald urchin shrimp	Freshwater invertebrate	Μ
31-40	Echinogammarus trichiatus	curly haired urchin shrimp	Freshwater invertebrate	F
31-40	Ocinebrellus inornatus	Japanese sting winkle	Marine	Μ
31-40	Rapana venosa	veined rapa whelk	Marine	Μ
31-40	Amorpha fruticosa	False indigo bush	Plant	т
31-40	Elaeagnus angustifolia	Russian olive	Plant	т
31-40	Lonicera maackii	Amur honeysuckle	Plant	т
31-40	Sicyos angulatus	Star-cucumber	Plant	т
31-40	Xenopus laevis	African Clawed Toad	Vertebrate	т
31-40	Miscanthus sinensis	Chinese silvergrass	Plant	т
41-50	Limnomysis benedeni	A mysid	Freshwater invertebrate	F
41-50	Obesogammarus obesus	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
41-50	Asterias amurensis	Northern Pacific seastar	Marine	Μ
41-50	Fraxinus pennsylvannica	green ash	Plant	т
41-50	Mytilicola orientalis	A parasitic copepod (red worm	Marine	Μ
		disease)		

41-50	Psittacula eupatria	Alexandrine Parakeet	Vertebrate	т
41-50	Rugulopteryx okamurae	Asian fan weed	Marine	М
41-50	Tamarix ramosissima	salt cedar	Plant	т
41-50	Tamias sibiricus	Siberian chipmunk	Vertebrate	т
41-50	Rhododendron sinogrande	Great Chinese rhododendron	Plant	Т
51-100	Chelicorophium robustum	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Ciona savignyi	Sea squirt	Marine	М
51-100	Corvus splendens	Indian house crow	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Odocoileus virginianus	White tailed deer	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Acridotheres cristatellus	Crested Myna	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Acridotheres tristis	common myna	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Aromia bungii	Red-necked Longhorn beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	т
51-100	Bubo bubo	Eagle Owl	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Bufotes viridis	Green toad	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Carassius gibelio	Prussian carp	Vertebrate	F
51-100	Corythucha arcuata	Oak Lace bug	Terrestrial invertebrate	т

51-100	Dyspanopeus sayi	small mud Crab	Marine	M, Brackish
51-100	Echinogammarus warpachowskyi	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Elaphe schrenkii	Amur rat snake	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Emys orbicularis	European Pond Terrapin	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Geukensia demissa	ribbed horsemussel	Marine	Μ
51-100	Micropterus salmoides	Largemouth bass	Vertebrate	F
51-100	Nassella neesiana (Stipa	Chilean needle grass	Plant	Т
	neesiana)			
51-100	Natrix natrix	Eastern/Common grass snake	Vertebrate	Т
51-100	Obesogammarus crassus	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Ommatotriton ophryticus	Northern banded newt	Vertebrate	F
51-100	Pantherophis guttatus	Corn snake	Vertebrate	Т
51-100	Paramysis lacustris	Ponto-Caspian mysid	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Podarcis sicula	Italian wall lizard	Vertebrate	Т
51-100	Potamocorbula amurensis	Amur river clam	Marine	FW/M
51-100	Rhithropanopeus harrisii	Harris mud crab	Marine	М

51-100	Styela plicata	Pleated tunicate	Marine	Μ
51-100	Tamias striatus	Eastern chipmunk	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Thamnophis sirtalis	Common Garter Snake	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Thaumetopoea pityocampa	Pine processionary moth	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
51-100	Umbra pygmaea	eastern mudminnow	Vertebrate	F
51-100	Xenostrobus securis	pigmy mussel	Marine	М
51-100	Aedes albopictus	Asian tiger mosquito	Terrestrial invertebrate	T/F
51-100	Axis axis	Axis Deer	Vertebrate	Т
51-100	Babka gymnotrachelus	Racer goby	Vertebrate	F
51-100	Cephalothrix simula	nemertean worm (no common name)	Marine	Μ
51-100	Cercopagis pengoi	a water flea	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Chelicorophium sowinskyi	An amphipod	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Cherax destructor	Common yabby	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Elaeagnus pungens	Thorny olive	Plant	Т
51-100	Heracleum persicum	Persian hogweed	Plant	Т
51-100	Megabalanus coccopoma	titan acorn barnacle/ large pink	Marine	М

barnacle

51-100	Megabalanus tintinnabulum	sea tulip	Marine	Μ
51-100	Miscanthus sacchariflorus	Amur silvergrass	Plant	Т
51-100	Moschus moschiferus	Siberian musk deer	Vertebrate	т
51-100	Neogobius fluviatilis	monkey goby	Vertebrate	F
51-100	Orconectes rusticus	Rusty crayfish	Freshwater invertebrate	F
51-100	Setaria parviflora	Marsh bristlegrass	Plant	Т
51-100	Theora lubrica	Asian Semele	Marine	Μ
51-100	Bispira polyomma	a tube worm	Marine	Μ

¹Pathway information is under review. Additionally terrestrial invertebrate experts are reviewing lists of Arachnids (including spiders and mites) for potential inclusion.

Human health impacts

A total of 33 species was compiled into a long list for consideration during the workshop. The group reached a consensus on the ranking of the top 20 species predicted to have the potential for human health impacts in bands of 1-5 and 6-20 (Table 2).

Rank Species name Common name Workshop group Environment 1-5 Aedes albopictus Asian tiger mosquito Terrestrial invertebrate T/F 1-5 Aedes japonicus Asian Bush Mosquito Terrestrial invertebrate Т 1-5 Giant ragweed Plant Т Ambrosia trifida 1-5 Artemisia annua Sweet wormwood Plant Т 1-5 Baccharis halimifolia Tree groundsel Plant Т 6-10 Vertebrate Т Nyctereutes procyonoides raccoon dog 6-10 Bellamya chinensis Chinese mystery snail Freshwater invertebrate F 6-10 Procyon lotor Vertebrate Т raccoon Terrestrial invertebrate 6-10 Vespa mandarinia Asian giant hornet Т 6-10 Asian hornet Terrestrial invertebrate Vespa velutina Т 11-20 Pterois volitans red lionfish Marine Μ 11-20 Tamias sibiricus Siberian chipmunk Vertebrate Т Vertebrate 11-20 Tamias striatus Eastern chipmunk Т Terrestrial invertebrate 11-20 Thaumetopoea pityocampa Pine processionary moth Т Triadica sebifera Plant Т 11-20 candle-berry Tree Vertebrate 11-20 Chelydra serpentina snapping turtle Т 11-20 Μ Cephalothrix simula nemertean worm Marine

Table 2: Invasive Non-Native Species with high likelihood of arrival, establishment and human health impacts within Britain²

11-20	Heracleum persicum	Persian hogweed	Plant	Т
11-20	Lissachatina fulica (formerly Achatina	Giant African snail	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
	fulica)			
11-20	Wasmannia auropunctata	Little Fire ant	Terrestrial invertebrate	т

²Pathway information is under review. Additionally terrestrial invertebrate experts are reviewing lists of Arachnids (including spiders and mites).

Economic impacts

A total of 49 species was compiled into a long list for consideration during the workshop. The group reached a consensus on the ranking of the top 20 species predicted to have the potential for economic impacts in bands of 1-5 and 6-21 (Table 3).

Rank	Species name	Common name	Workshop group	Environment
1-5	Gyrodactylus salaris	salmon fluke	Freshwater invertebrate	F
1-5	Ips typographus	Eight tooth spruce bark beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
1-5	Halyomorpha halys	Brown marmorated stink bug	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
1-5	Setaria faberi	Japanese bristlegrass	Plant	Т
1-5	Homarus americanus	American lobster	Marine	М
6-21	Aethina tumida	Small Hive Beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	
6-21	Anoplophora glabripennis	Asian longhorn beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	т
6-21	Nassella neesiana (Stipa	Chilean needle grass	Plant	Т
	neesiana)			
6-21	Ambrosia trifida	Giant ragweed	Plant	т
6-21	Anoplophora chinensis	Citrus longhorn beetle	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
6-21	Procyon lotor	raccoon	Vertebrate	т
6-21	Sicyos angulatus	Star-cucumber	Plant	Т
6-21	Thaumetopoea pityocampa	Pine processionary moth	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
6-21	Aedes albopictus	Asian tiger mosquito	Terrestrial invertebrate	T/F
6-21	Aedes japonicus	Asian Bush Mosquito	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
6-21	Setaria parviflora	Marsh bristlegrass	Plant	т

Table 3: Invasive Non-Native Species with high likelihood of arrival, establishment and economic impacts within Britain

6-21	Vespa velutina	Asian hornet	Terrestrial invertebrate	Т
6-21	Mnemiopsis leidyi	American comb jelly	Marine	М
6-21	Ocinebrellus inornatus	Japanese sting winkle	Marine	М
6-21	Rapana venosa	veined rapa whelk	Marine	М
6-21	Myriophyllum heterophyllum	American water-milfoil	Plant	т

³Pathway information is under review. Additionally terrestrial invertebrate experts are reviewing lists of Arachnids (including spiders and mites). Myriophyllum

heterophyllum was added after the workshop following confirmation of recent eradication.

Combined list

1-15Vespa velutinaAsian hornet1-15Anoplophora glabripennisAsian longhorn beetle1-15Aedes japonicusAsian bush mosquito1-15Mnemiopsis leidyiComb jelly1-15Gyrodactylus salarisSalmon fluke1-15Bellamya chinensisChinese mystery snail1-15Bellamya chinensisChinese mystery snail1-15Bellamya chinensisChinese mystery snail1-15Baccharis halimifoliaSea mrytle1-15Baccharis halimifoliaSea mrytle1-15Agrilus plannipennisEmerald ash borer1-15Aedes albopictusTiger mosquito1-15Aedes albopictusTiger mosquito1-15Hemigrapsus sanguineusAsian shore crab1-15Procyon lotorRaccoon1-15Nyctereutes procyonoidesRaccoon dog16-30Procambarus fallaxMarbled crayfish16-30Halyomorpha halysBrown marmorated stink bug16-30JubyographusEuropean spruce bark beetle16-30JubyographusEuropean spruce bark beetle16-30Anoplophora chinensisCitrus long-horned beetle16-30Asterias amurensisNorthern Pacific seastar16-30Asterias amurensisNorthern Pacific seastar16-30Anbrosia trifidaGiant ragweed16-30Thaumetopoea pityocampaPine processionary moth16-30Cephalothrix simulaNemertean worm (no common name)16-30Rologobius melanostomus	Rank	Species	Common name
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16-30 <i>Neogobius melanostomus</i> Round goby	16-30	Thaumetopoea pityocampa	Pine processionary moth
5	16-30	Cephalothrix simula	Nemertean worm (no common name)
16-30 <i>Tamias sibiricu</i> Siberian chipmunk	16-30	Neogobius melanostomus	Round goby
	16-30	Tamias sibiricu	Siberian chipmunk

Discussion

The INNS considered to be the greatest risk across all impact categories was dominated by invertebrates. The Asian hornet, *Vespa velutina*, was identified in the previous horizon scanning list for GB in 2013 (Roy, Peyton et al. 2014). It was subsequently recorded in 2016 but rapidly eradicated. Indeed there have been records of this INNS every year since 2016 but in all cases the nest has been located and destroyed. Asian hornets consume honeybees and wild pollinators and as such are considered a risk to biodiversity and ecosystems but also economies with losses in honey production but also pollination services. Human health can be impacted because *V. velutina* can sting people. As

competent disease vectors it is not surprising that the species of mosquito listed were considered to present a risk to human health but also reduction in tourism in regions where the mosquitoes occur constituting an economic impact. Two plants were ranked within the top 15 on the combined horizon scanning list: *Baccharis halimifolia* and *Myriophyllum heterophyllum*. The aquatic plant *M. heterophyllum* has been recorded in Britain but is currently considered absent following successful eradication. It can have major biodiversity and ecosystem impacts by outcompeting other plants and altering the community composition and functioning within invaded water bodies. Additionally it can adversely affect recreational and commercial use of water bodies. *Baccharis halimifolia* can become a dense thicket and is particularly problematic in saltmarshes where it can rapidly dominate. However, it will also grow in other habitats and is toxic to livestock. The seeds and pollen of *B. halimifolia* are allergenic.

Five marine INNS were listed in the top 15 on the combined list. *Bellamya chinensis* has the potential to outcompete other molluscs but may also transmit organisms that are pathogenic to humans. *Mnemiopsis leidyi* is an ecosystem engineer affecting physical conditions of recipient ecosystems including decrease in water transparency, and change in nutrients availability. This jellyfish can lead to cascading effects by decreasing zooplankton effecting other trophic levels.

A number of vertebrates were included in the list. Most notably the two mammals *Procyon lotor* and *Nyctereutes procyonoides*. Both these animals can impact biodiversity and ecosystem but also human health as reservoirs for disease. *Psittacula eupatria*, a parakeet, was also included in the combined list. This invasive bird is known to compete for nest sites in tree holes with other birds but there is also evidence of economic damage because *P. eupatria* can be an agricultural pest. There are also concerns that this parakeet could potentially be infected with influenza A viruses and transmit these to humans.

Many of the INNS listed as posing an economic impact were considered to be a risk to plant health. *Anoplophora glabripennis* and *Agrilus plannipennis* are examples of insects that can cause damage to plants both in managed and wild contexts. *Anoplophora glabripennis* attacks a range of hardwood trees, such as *Salix* spp, but can also cause economic loss to fruit trees. *Agrilus plannipennis* consumes ash trees which are already being threatened by ash dieback, *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*. The effects of *A. plannipennis* to the community composition of woodland is likely to cause cascading biodiversity impacts.

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The species lists derived through this horizon scanning approach can be used in multiple ways. Comprehensive risk

assessments could be undertaken to robustly assess the evidence of impacts. However, meanwhile the INNS

identified as high risk could be included within a communication plan to inform awareness.

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