



Sphaeroma terebrans

An isopod, warty pillbug, mangrove isopod)

Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
 - A known bioeroder (Molnar 2008).
 - A threat to mangrove forests. The isopod may play an important role in determining the lower intertidal limits of (the red mangrove) *Rhizophora mucronata*.
 - *S. terebrans* causes ecological catastrophe by destroying the aerial roots of red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle* L.) along the southwestern coast of Florida to such an extent that the Ten Thousand Islands and mangrove fringes of the mainland were steadily shrinking (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
 - Appears to have been spread anthropogenically around the world in or on the hulls of ships (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
 - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
 - No current permanent controls for this species.

Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Indian Ocean/Indo Pacific
2. First introduction: 1897
3. 1st recorded in Florida, USA mangroves in 1897. Occurs in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and north to Virginia (Molnar 2008).
4. Mangroves, marine, brackish water, intertidal zones, estuaries/bays

Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface Fouling
 - Accidental known
 - Cause- hull fouling

Non native locations

1. 41- Virginian
2. 42- Carolinian
3. 70- Floridian

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. http://www.sms.si.edu/irlspec/sphaeroma_terebrans.htm