

British invasion of the harlequin ladybird threatens other species

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The harlequin ladybird, officially known as *Harmonia axyridis*, was widely introduced across continental Europe as a way to limit the population of small sap-sucking insects called aphids.

While it was never intentionally introduced into Britain, *H. axyridis* was discovered there in 2003, and people across the region have been tracking its spread since 2005.

A new review in The Royal Entomological Society's journal *Ecological Entomology* notes that tens of thousands of people have provided records of *H. axyridis* and other species of ladybirds, creating an invaluable dataset for large-scale and long-term research.

Declines in seven (of eight assessed) native species of ladybird have occurred and have correlated with the arrival of *H. axyridis*.

Research on this species has provided new insights on [biological invasions](#).

Provided by Wiley

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