

Aesthetic aliens: invasion of the beauty rat snake, *Elaphe taeniura* Cope, 1861 in Belgium, Europe

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Elaphe taeniura

- Asian species
- Large distribution
- Multiple subspecies
- Generalist
- Oviparous



In Belgium

- Chinese subspecies
- Hibernation
- Railroad system
- Subterranean lifestyle
- Reproducing

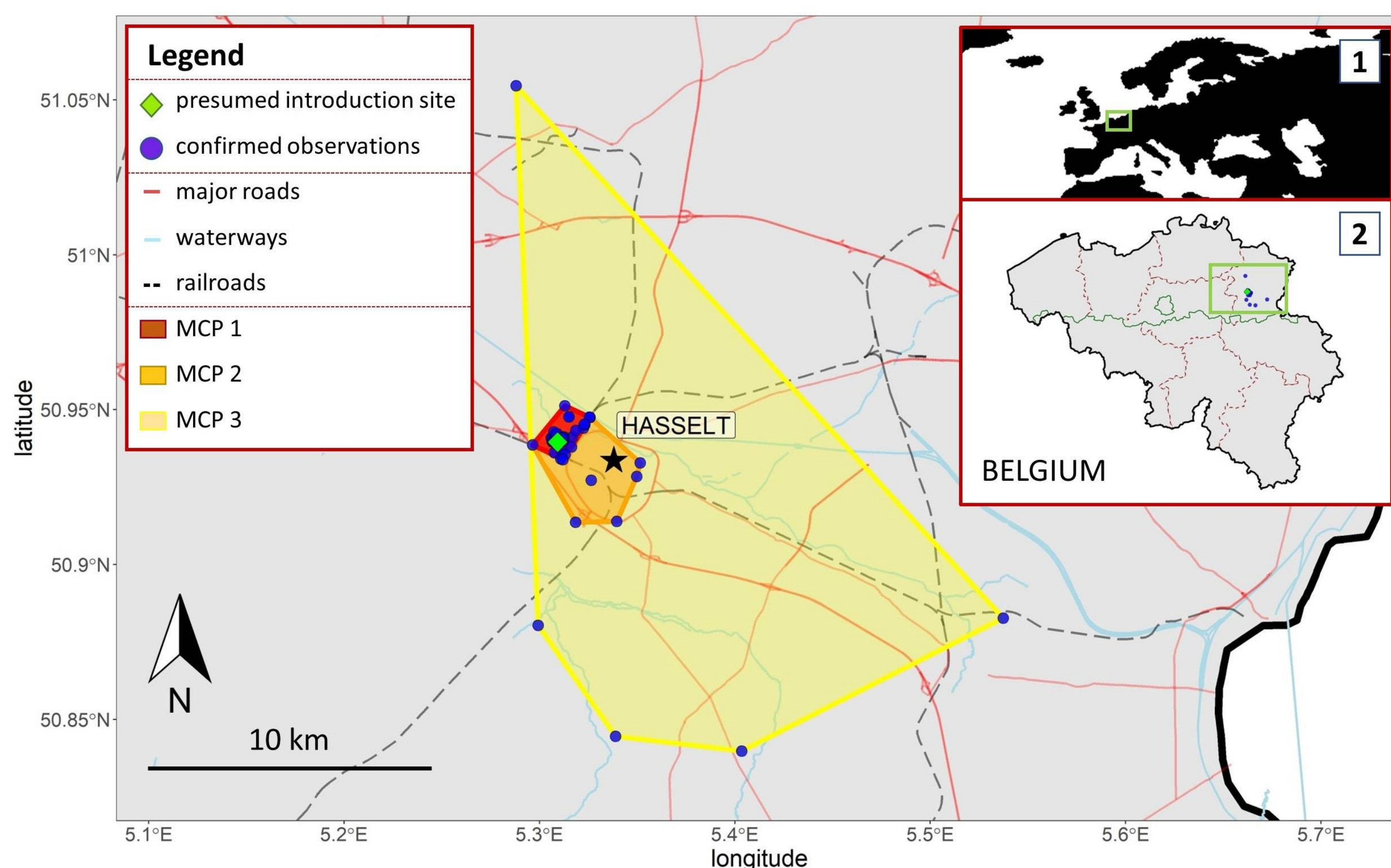


Impact

- Invasive in Japan
- ISEIA score
B1: moderate environmental risk
- Future impact?



Distribution



Summary

- Since 2006
- Pet trade escapee
- Successful reproduction
- >100 observations
- Potential impact
- Removal ongoing

van Doorn L, Speybroeck J, Brys R, Halfmaerten D, Neyrinck S, Engelen P, Adriaens T (2021) Aesthetic aliens: invasion of the beauty rat snake, *Elaphe taeniura* Cope, 1861 in Belgium, Europe. *BioInvasions Records* 10(3): 741–754, <https://doi.org/10.3391/bir.2021.10.3.24>

