

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 1



**Nutria**  
(*Myocastor coypus*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 2



**Cuban Treefrog**  
(*Osteopilus septentrionalis*)  
Caribbean Islands

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 3



**Australian Spotted Jellyfish**  
(*Phyllorhiza punctata*)  
Australia

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 4



**Green Iguana**  
(*Iguana iguana*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 5



**Burmese Python**  
(*Python molurus bivittatus*)  
Asia

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 6



**Monk Parakeet**  
(*Myiopsitta monachus*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 7



**Rhesus Macaque**  
(*Macaca mulatta*)  
Asia

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 8



**Red Lionfish**  
(*Pterois volitans*)  
Pacific Ocean

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 9



**Red-eared Slider**  
(*Trachemys scripta*)  
North America

Australian Spotted Jellyfish have been found in the Gulf of Mexico and the east coast of Florida. Because all jellyfish have stingers, care must be taken in the water. Also, shrimping boats and nets were damaged due to the large number of jellyfish present.

Exotic animals come from many countries. Sometimes they cause harm to the native animals and their surroundings. For more information, visit the U.S. Geological Survey website at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov>.

**DO NOT RELEASE PETS INTO THE WILD**

Cuban Treefrogs can usually be identified from other frogs by its large disc-like toe pads. They are very noisy and have been known to eat our smaller native frogs. Their toxic skin secretions can be an irritant to people.

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Nutria are rodents very similar looking to our native muskrat. They were imported for their fur coats many years ago. They escaped the fur farms and now cause damage to wetlands by eating many of the plants.

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Monk Parakeets are small green birds that like to build large nests on telephone poles. Short circuiting of transmission lines have occurred as a result. There is also the potential for these birds to cause crop damage.

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Python snakes have recently invaded Everglades National Park in Florida as a result of being released by pet owners. These are very large snakes that prey on many native mammals, birds, and reptiles.

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Green Iguanas can grow to six feet long and are vegetarians. They can be found in southern Florida in the wild and in homeowners' yards eating a variety of flowers and shrubs.

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Red-eared Sliders are native to regions of the United States and are very popular pets. However, many pet owners are releasing them into the wild where they compete for food with wild turtles. They are also carriers of salmonella bacteria.

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Red Lionfish were discovered in the Atlantic Ocean several years ago from Florida and north to Rhode Island. Although they are beautiful to see in an aquarium, do not touch them. They have venomous spines which can cause discomfort for people.

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Rhesus Macaques (monkeys) have been living near Ocala, Florida for decades. It is believed they were released from movies made there back in the 1930s. Kept as pets, these monkeys can be a disease threat to people.

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EXOTIC SPECIES No. 10



**Brown Anole**  
(*Anolis sagrei*)  
Caribbean Islands

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 11



**Red Piranha**  
(*Pygocentrus nattereri*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 12



**Mediterranean Gecko**  
(*Hemidactylus turcicus*)  
Europe and Africa

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 13



**Channeled Applesnail**  
(*Pomacea insularum*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 14



**Muscovy Duck**  
(*Cairina moschata*)  
Mexico

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 15



**Armored Catfish**  
(*Pterygoplichthys disjunctivus*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 16



**Nile Monitor**  
(*Varanus niloticus*)  
Africa

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 17



**Nine-Banded Armadillo**  
(*Dasypus novemcinctus*)  
South America

EXOTIC SPECIES No. 18



**African Clawed Frog**  
(*Xenopus laevis*)  
Africa

Geckos are small lizards, about 4 inches long. They have bumpy skin and sticky toe pads. You usually only see them out at night while feeding on insects and spiders near sources of light.

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Piranhas are popular as aquarium pets. They can grow to 10 inches and have very sharp teeth that allow them to eat meat and sometimes attack swimmers.

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The Brown Anole is a small lizard that may compete for food and habitat with our native Green Anole. They both live in trees and feed on insects.

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Armored Catfish are found in many aquariums because they feed on algae and help keep them clean. These catfish can grow to over a foot long and in the wild their nests can cause river banks to erode.

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Muscovy Ducks can breed with native mallard ducks. Large flocks can become a problem by spreading disease to native ducks and producing lots of droppings. Feeding them is not encouraged.

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Channeled Applesnails are very large snails and are used in aquariums to clean algae. In the wild they can do a lot damage to wetland plants. Colonies can be recognized by clusters of bright pink eggs laid on plants above the water.

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African Clawed Frogs are quite large, about 6 inches long, have claws on their hind feet, no webbing on their front feet and are completely aquatic. They feed on fish and may compete with our native frogs.

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Armadillos are small mammals related to anteaters and have an outer shell made from bone. They also have powerful front legs with claws for digging. Their eyesight is poor, relying on their nose to find food. They can be good swimmers.

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Nile Monitors are large lizards, growing more than 6 feet long. They are meat eaters with long, sharp claws and are closely related to Komodo dragons. Monitors can be found in the Cape Coral, Florida area.

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