

# Online database “Aquatic invaders of Belarus”: goals and structure

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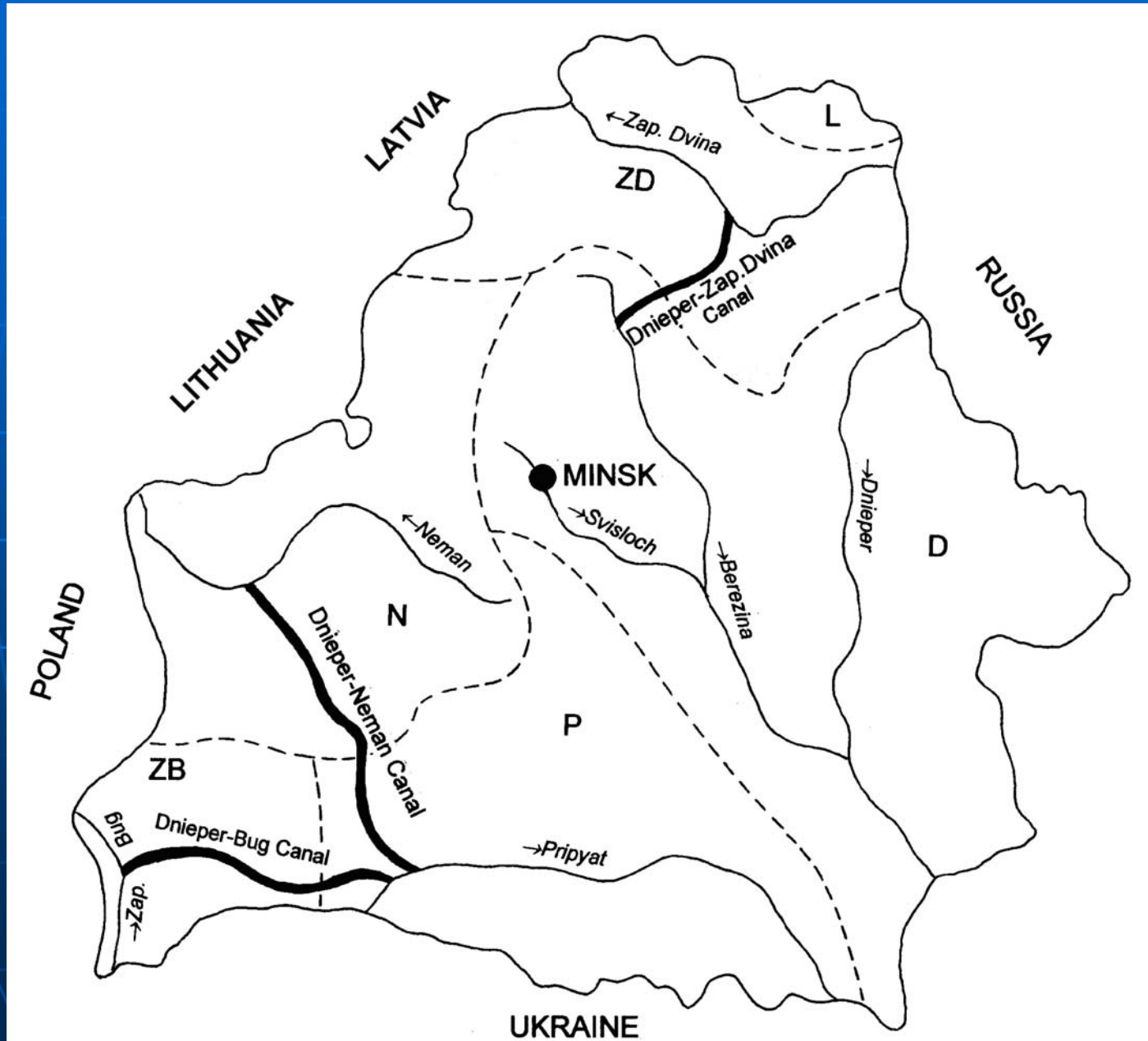
<sup>2</sup> – Great Lakes Center, Buffalo, USA



# Migration corridors of Ponto-Caspian species in Europe



# Interbasin canals constructed in Belarus



# Why are the studies on aquatic invasions in Belarus not numerous?

- **Absence of national strategy in the field of biological invasions;**
- **Poor financial support of such studies;**
- **Lack of taxonomical specialists on major groups of aquatic organisms.**

## Goals of the project «Aquatic invaders of Belarus» are to:

- Synthesize all available published information on aquatic alien species of animals and deliver it to English- and Russian-speaking experts;
- Rapidly inform experts about new records of alien species;
- Provide access to hardly available literature on alien species in Belarusian waterbodies.

> 200 papers published during the last century were analyzed. We revealed:


- **21** species of alien macroinvertebrates
- **26** species of alien fishes

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# Aquatic invaders of Belarus

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**Species:** *Hypania invalida* (Grube, 1860)

**Synonyms:** -

**Common name:** -

**Taxonomy:**

- Family:** Ampharetidae
- Order:** Canalipalpata
- Class:** Polychaeta
- Phylum:** Annelida

**Native range:** Ponto-Caspian.

**Date of introduction/first record:**

The first records were published by Tischikov and Tischikov (2005), with no exact dates of finding indicated.

**Vector:** Unknown.

**Records in Belarus:**

Rivers Berezina, Zapadnyi Bug and Mukhavets (Tischikov and Tischikov 2005).

[Show distribution map](#)

**Potential ecological impacts:**

*Hypania invalida* may become a valuable food item for many benthivorous fish (Scherbina 2001; Slynko et al. 2002).

**References:**

- *Scherbina GH* (2001) Self-acclimation of the Caspian polychaete *Hypania invalida* Stebb. in the Upper Volga basin. *Zoological Journal* 3: 278-284.

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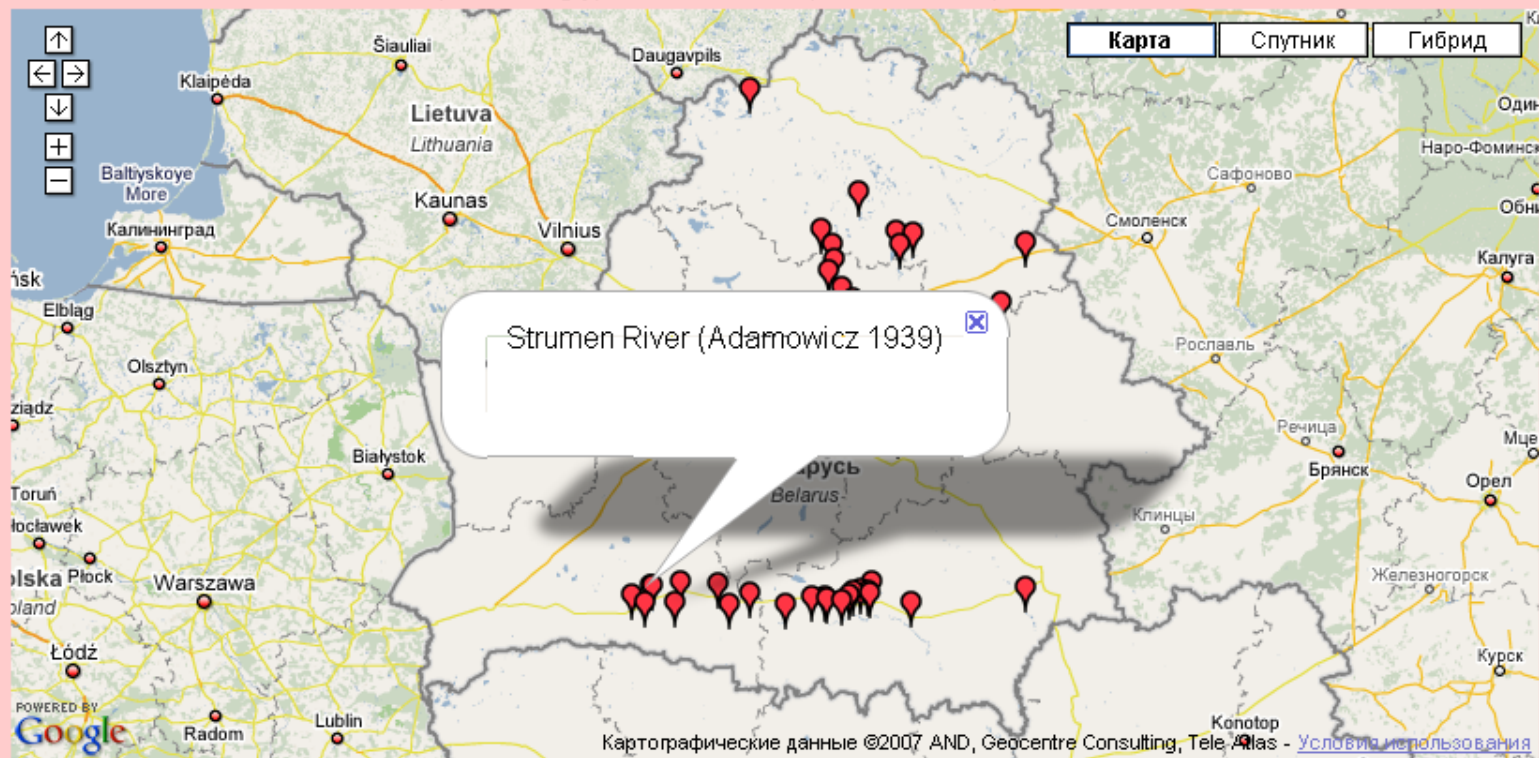


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Map of Lithoglyphus naticoides (Pfeiffer, 1828) distribution



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 **[Benthos in the Berezina River](#)** 31.07.2007

197 species and forms of macrozoobenthos were found in the middle and low flow of the Berezina River, Belarus. The most diverse were chironomid larvae (77 species and forms), then lichens and snails. Four exotic species (*Caspiobdella fadejevi*, *Chelicorophium curvispinum*, *Dreissena polymorpha*, *Lithoglyphus naticoides*) were found in the river. The changes in species composition of benthic communities in relation to pollution are discussed.

*[Tischikov GM and Tischikov IG (1999) Macrozoobenthos fauna in the middle and low Berezina River. In: Karatayev AY (ed) Proceedings of the International conference on aquatic ecosystems "The results and future of aquatic ecology research", pp 251-264. Belarusian State University Press, Minsk (in Russian with English summary)]*

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Category: DOCMan/Donor areas


 **[Phenotypes of Dreissena shells](#)** 07.08.2007

Phenotypes of *Dreissena* shells are described and compared among different populations.

*[Biochino GI and Slynko YV (1990) Structure of Dreissena polymorpha (Pallas) populations within the range of distribution. In: N. N. Khmeleva et. al. (eds.) Species within their range: Biology, ecology, and productivity of aquatic invertebrates, pp 130-135. Navuka i Tekhnika Press, Minsk (in Russian)]*

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Category: DOCMan/Endosymbionts

 **[Eco-parasitological aspects of Dreissena spread](#) hot!** 17.05.2007

The paper contains results of the analysis of consequences of the rapid distribution of zebra mussel and its associated endosymbionts across freshwater ecosystems. Data from Belarusian waterbodies show that at least 32 taxa from 8 classes of animals inhabit the mantle cavity and/or visceral mass of the mollusc. Among these endosymbionts one can find both parasites and commensals which are either obligate or facultative. It is possible to distinguish the following main consequences of spread of *Dreissena* and its endosymbionts: 1) increase of species richness in a waterbody; 2) extension of number of possible hosts for endosymbionts indigenous for a given waterbody; 3) change for the worse parasitological situation in a waterbody; 4) changes in the behavioral habits of some free-living organisms (nematodes, chironomids, oligochaetes and leeches) and 5) reorganization of trophic chains in the ecosystem of waterbody.

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Sunday, 12 August 2007

The first comprehensive review paper on aquatic alien species in Belarus has been recently published on-line in the journal [Biological Invasions](#). The abstract of the paper is given below.

Biol Invasions  
DOI 10.1007/s10530-007-9124-y

ORIGINAL PAPER

## Past, current, and future of the central European corridor for aquatic invasions in Belarus

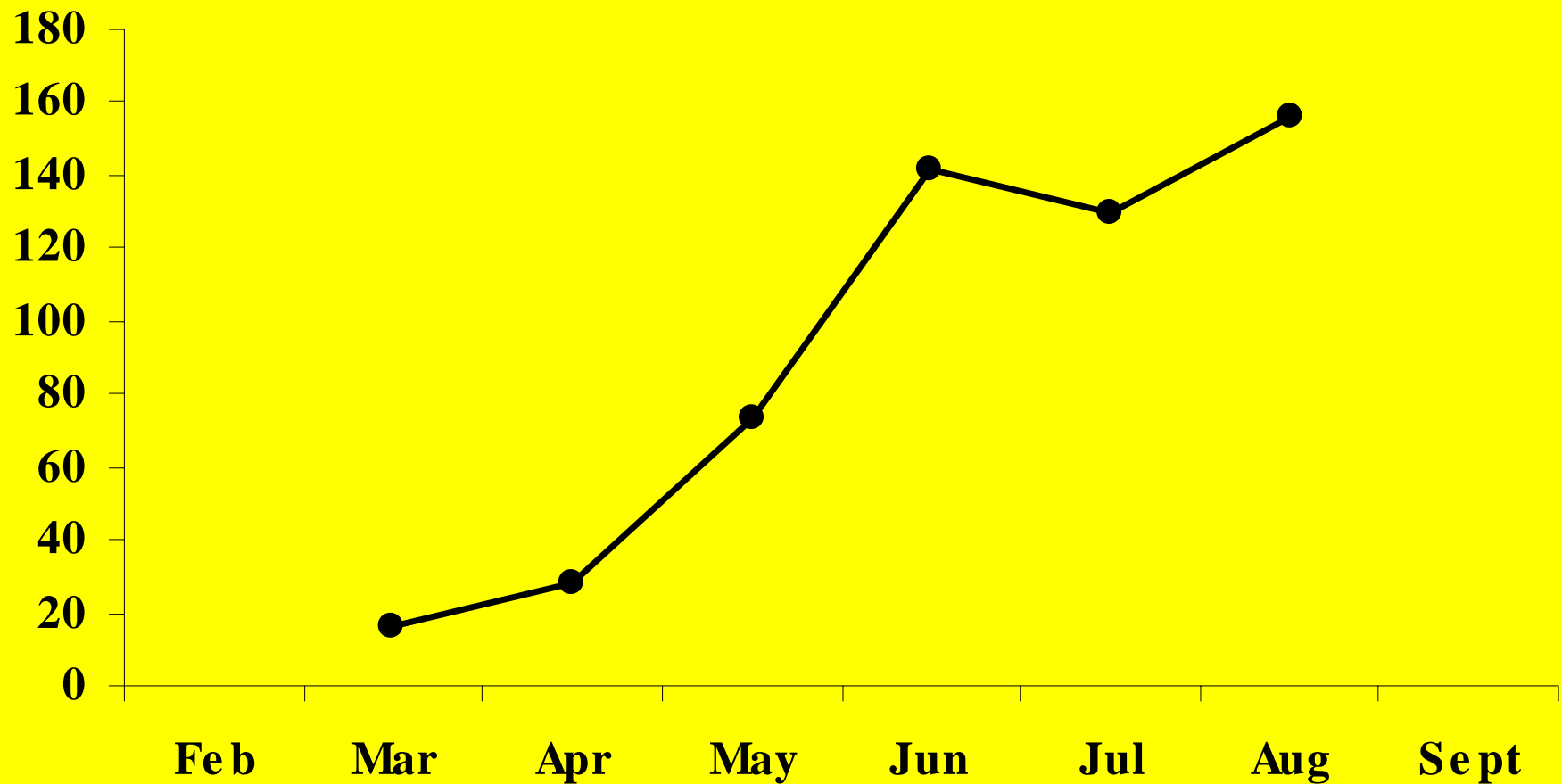
Alexander Y. Karatayev · Sergey E. Mastitsky ·  
Lyubov E. Burlakova · Sergej Olenin

**Abstract.** We analyzed the role of the waterways of Belarus in the spread of aquatic exotic invertebrates through the central European invasion corridor. Present day Belarus became critically important when, in the end of the 18th - beginning of the 19th century, three interbasin canals

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This work was partly supported by EU 6FWP ALARM  
(Contract GOCE-CT-2003-506675 to SEM)