

Special Issue

The Invasive Species *Vespa velutina*: A Current Challenge in European Eco-Systems: Second Edition

Message from the Guest Editors

The yellow-legged hornet, *Vespa velutina nigrithorax*, is an introduced alien species in many locations, having originated from South Asia. The species' capacity to adapt to new environments indicates that it represents a clear case of invasive success. The impact of this invasive species on ecosystems is considerable, with notable effects on both the environment and the socioeconomic situation in the affected areas. It is noteworthy that the species plays a significant role as a predator of pollinators, including honeybees. It is therefore imperative that the scientific community contributes to extensive research on this species, which will help to inform the development of effective management strategies. This second edition of the Special Issue is a necessary follow-up on the consequences of the introduction of *V. velutina* into ecosystems. Topics such as the behavior of the species, feeding habits, biological cycle, ecological and economic consequences of its introduction, management strategies, and new control proposals, as well as studies on its natural environment, are welcome in this Special Issue.

Guest Editors

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2023, ranks 10/80 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 16/167 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.0.

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