

Belgium for Biodiversity

LIFE21-IPN-BE-B4B LIFE

Loïc van Doorn

Research Institute for Nature and Forest, Flanders, Belgium



Speed presentations – ARC Platform Meeting – 22nd May –
Santander, Spain

LIFE B4B

Will contribute to the protection and restoration of biodiversity in Belgium. The focus will be on facilitating the implementation of existing regional policy frameworks throughout the whole Belgian territory.

- Protecting biodiversity by contributing to a coherent and resilient Trans-European Nature Network of strictly protected areas by 2031
- Restoring biodiversity by improving the conservation status of species and habitats.
- Reducing the impact of environmental pressures
- Enabling transformative change

Achieve a positive trend for Natura 2000 species



Translocations of two threatened amphibians



Pelobates fuscus
Common spadefoot toad



Alytes obstetricans
Common midwife toad

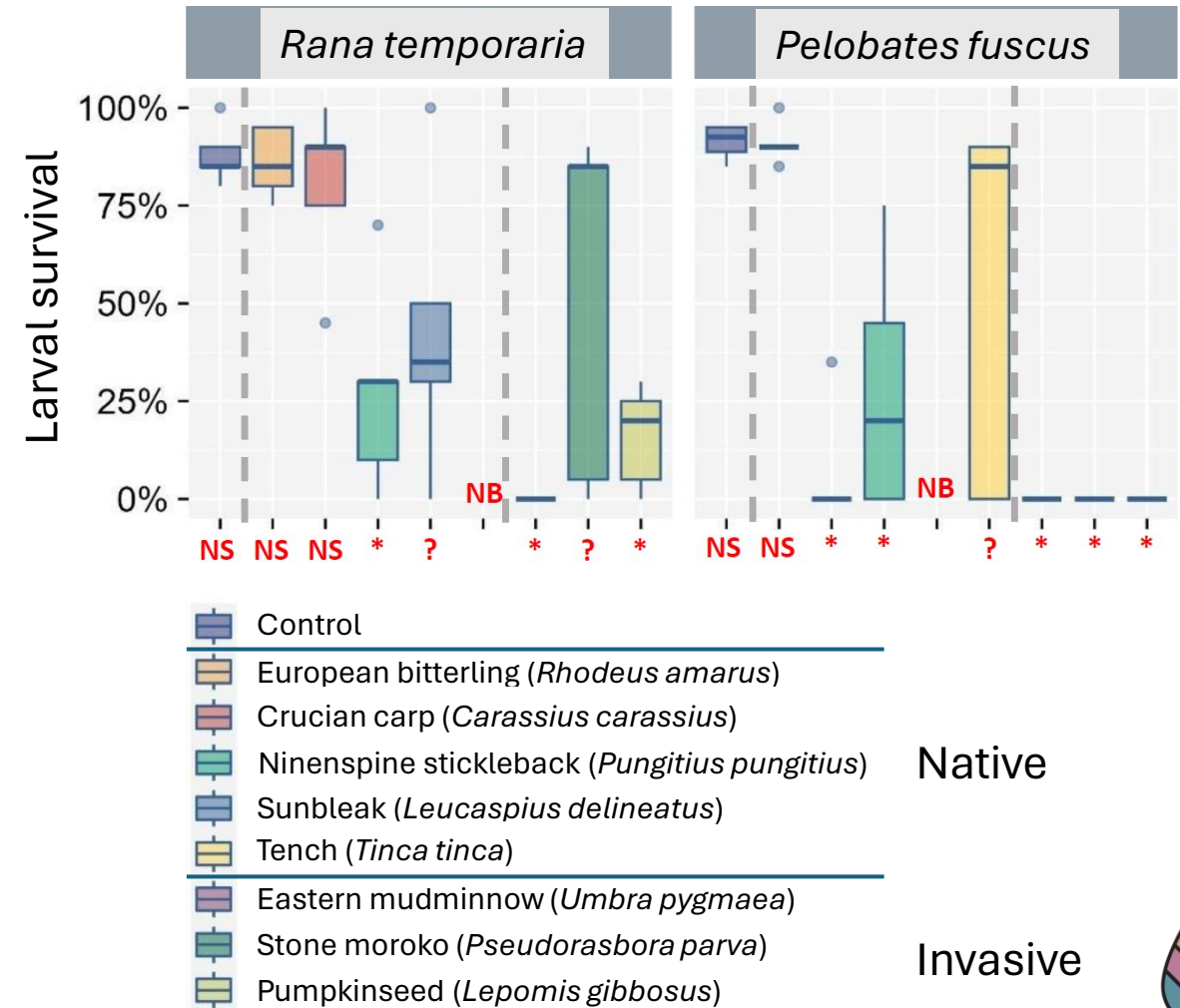
ARC and Invasive Species

Amphibians and invasive fish

1. Shift from native fish species towards IAS
2. No co-evolution with native amphibian species
3. Different niches and densities

Impact?

→ Experimental study



Native

Invasive



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ARC and Land Management

Land management and translocations

1. Habitat is paramount

- Translocations are not a quick fix, nor a standalone solution
- The quality and quantity of restored habitats will determine the effectiveness of the translocation

2. Many amphibians and reptiles are poor dispersers

- Habitat connectivity is important
- Metapopulation functioning is partly dependent on (sub)population densities

3. A multitude of species and habitat goals for each site hamper effective conservation

- Amphibian and reptile habitats often fall outside of natura2000 habitats
- Restoring habitats favourable for all focal species/habitats is sometimes not the best solution



Take home message



Translocations are not a panacea for ARC

Success is dependent on a multitude of factors

