

# INVASIVE



# SPECIES

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## Invasive Species Videos

- Starling 
- Asian Carp 
- Great Lakes 
- Kudzu 
- Lionfish 
- Python in Everglades 

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## The Brown Tree Snake (*Boiga irregularis*)



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### SNAKE INVADERS!!!

- The brown tree snake is an introduced species on the island of Guam that first appeared in the early 1950's. Typically individuals are 3-4 feet in length, but "honkers" up to 10 feet are known
- The snakes probably arrived on the island hidden in ship cargo from the Admiralty Islands of northern New Guinea.



Why is this person smiling while holding a 7 foot long snake?

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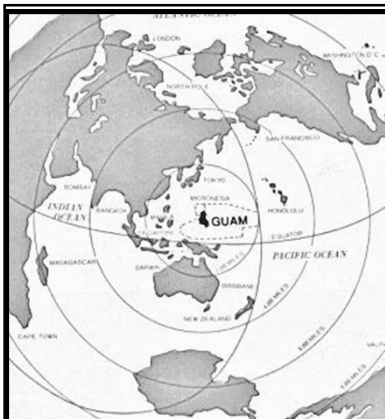
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Guam, a 209 square mile island formerly covered with lush tropical vegetation is a territory of the United States, and was obtained from Spain in the Treaty of Paris in 1898, which ended the Spanish-American War.

Strategically located, the island was lost to the Japanese in the early stages of World War II and then recaptured after ferocious battles in 1944. A large military base is still maintained on Guam and it is a much-used stopover point in world commerce. Lately, it has become a favored tourist destination, primarily for Japanese and other Asian residents.

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Portions of the remaining island are heavily vegetated with dense thickets of Tangantangan trees, introduced from Central America to control erosion. These provide ideal habitat for brown tree snakes. Prior to their arrival there were no native predatory snakes on Guam.



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### You do the math...

The brown tree snake has flourished in Guam! It is estimated that up to 3 million brown tree snakes inhabit the island, up to 3,000 individuals per square mile in preferred habitat



\* These population estimates are among the highest snake densities ever recorded! \*

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Due to the absence of natural population controls and abundance of vulnerable prey on Guam, the brown tree snake has become a major pest control problem.

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"Never in history has a snake done as much ecological damage as this snake!" — USDA

EXTINCTION

- The native forest birds of Guam have been virtually wiped out by the brown tree snake.
- Twelve bird species, some of which were found nowhere else in the world, have disappeared from the island.

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The Guam Rail survives in captivity and individuals have been introduced to neighboring, snake-free, islands



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The Mariana Crow (referred to locally as the Aga) survives in captivity and individuals still breed on the nearby island of Rota

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They have little fear of humans and encounters are common.... Shower anyone??

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### ELECTRICAL DAMAGE

•Snakes crawling on electrical lines cause frequent power outages .

•Since 1978, more than 1,200 power outages have been caused by snakes.

•These outages cause multiple problems ranging from food spoilage to computer failure.



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### **BITE ME!**

The brown tree snake is aggressive when threatened. Luckily for us, its venom is mild and not known to be fatal to humans.

It does use a combination of suffocation and its sedative-like venom to kill its prey. Is known as a rear-fanged snake with enlarged teeth in the back of its mouth.

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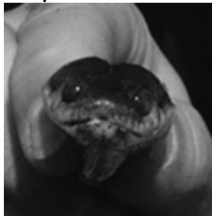
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Illegal Aliens

Brown tree snakes are often accidental stowaways in cargo leaving Guam. Via this mode of transportation, the snakes can spread off the island. They have been sighted in Spain, Hawaii, and even Texas!

Invasion of these snakes to other Pacific Islands will be ecologically and economically devastating!



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Preventive Measures

1. Careful inspection of cargo or baggage shipped from or throughout Guam.
2. Snake-trapping in high-risk areas.
3. Nighttime spotlight searches.
4. Report any possible sightings.
5. Public education.

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Despite all of the precautions, there have been 8 recent sightings of Brown Tree Snakes in the Hawaiian Islands, a formerly snake-free area.



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Hawaiian Islands Brown Tree Snake Rapid Response Team

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Trap for Brown Tree Snake Removal

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Keep me away from Hawaii!

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