MO (Moderate) Eleutherodactylus coqui

Date assessed: 2020-09-01
Year published: 2021
Eicat category: MO (Moderate)

Justification for EICAT assessment:
E. coqui reduced aerial, herbivorous, and leaf litter invertebrates at one study site in Hawaii (Sin et al. 2008, Choi & Beard 2012). Some of these invertebrates are endemic.

Confidence rating: High
Mechanism(s) of maximum impact: Predation
Countries of most severe impact: U.S.A.

Description of impact:
Predation- E. coqui is an insectivore with the potential to reduce endemic invertebrates populations. However, it is not clearly known which endemic invertebrates are threatened by E. coqui through predation. Competition- E. coqui has the potential to reduce available prey for bats and birds where their habitats overlap. Chemical impact on ecosystem- the presence of E. coqui increases rates of litter decomposition and nutrient cycling due to increased excretory nutrient fluxes into the litter pool; it also appears to lead to elevated production of new leaves (growth) in a significant non-native tree species.

Assessor: Sarah J. Davies; John Measey; Carla Wagener
Contributors: Sabrina Kumschick; Alexander D. Rebelo; F. André de Villiers; Mohlamatsane Mokhatla; James Baxter-Gilbert; Corey Thorp; Giovanni Vimercati; Nitya Prakash Mohanty; Khensani Nkuna
Reviewers: EICAT authority

Recommended citation: Sarah J. Davies; John Measey; Carla Wagener. (2024). Eleutherodactylus coqui. IUCN Environmental Impact Classification for Alien Taxa (EICAT).