

# Invasive Species

in the Cook Islands

## Why are they a problem?

### Ship Rat



Photo from:  
Cook Islands Biodiversity Database

Scientific name: *Rattus Rattus* Local name: *Kiore Toka*

Ship rats are pests that feed on a wide range of native fruits and other plant materials competing with native birds for food. They are also known to eat birds eggs and young chicks which strongly impacts on our native and endangered bird populations.

### Polynesian mosquito



Photo from:  
Cook Islands Biodiversity Database

Scientific name: *Aedes polynesiensis* Local name: *Namu Tore*

Mosquito are a pest in the Cook Islands. They feed on humans and other animals by sucking their blood and are carriers of diseases.



### Mynah

Scientific name:  
*Acridotheres tristis*  
Local name:  
*Manu Kavamani*

Mynah birds are a pest that feed on fruits and vegetables. They also attack native birds for their nests.

### Crown of Thorns

Scientific name:  
*Acanthaster planci*  
Local name:  
*Taramea*

The crown-of-thorns starfish are found on coral reefs. They are a large, multiple-armed starfish that usually preys on hard corals. They feed on the coral polyps and eventually killing the coral by leaving a white scar of coral skeleton. They are harmful to humans when stepped on by local fishermans.



Photo from:  
Cook Islands Biodiversity Database

Remove these weeds from our islands and our Biodiversity

# Manu Kikino

i te Kuki Airani

## Eaa ta ratou kino ka rave?

### Kiore toka



Scientific name: *Rattus rattus* Common name: **Ship Rat**

E manu kino te kiore toka, e kai ana aia i te 'ua e te pepe a te manu. E kai katoa ana aia i te au kai e kai ana te au manu enua pera katoa te kai a te tangata mei te nita, meika e te vai atura.

### Namu Tore



Scientific name: *Aedes polynesiensis* Common name: **Polynesian mosquito**

Te namu tore, ka patia e ka ngote aia i te toto o te tangata pera te manu mei te puaka, e te vai atura e ka mangio te pakiri. E riro katoa ana te namu i te toto 'a atu i tetai uatu maki mei te zika e te dengue.



### Manu Kavamani

Scientific name:  
*Acridotheres tristis*  
Common name: **Mynah**

Te manu kavamani e riro ana aia i te arumaki i te manu enua mei te Kakerori, te Tangae'o mei runga mai i tona ko'anga. E riro katoa ana aia i te tãmanamanatã i te one kai a te tangata na roto i te kai'anga i te one tomati, nita, meika e te vai atura, tãmanamanatã atu, te kimi puapinga a te reira tangata.

### Taramea

Scientific name:  
*Acanthaster planci*  
Local name:  
**Crown of Thorns Starfish**

Te Taramea e kitea ia ana aia i roto i te tai. Te maata'anga o te taime e kitea ia ana aia i runga i te akau. E tamate ana aia i te kaua na roto i te kai'anga i te reira.

Me takai koe i te taramea ka puta toou vaevae e ka ririnui tona mamae.



Takore ia teia au ngangaere kikino mei roto i to tatou  
 Ao Ora Natura e no runga i to tatou enua