

1 **Appendix 1: details about quantitative literature analysis**

2 We conducted two searches using the Web of Science (WoS)  
3 (<https://apps.webofknowledge.com>). A) On 2 March 2016 we searched the Web of Science Core  
4 Collection, using the search string (In TOPIC): ("non-native\*" OR "non native\*" OR exotic\* OR  
5 alien\*OR allochthonous\* OR nonindigenous\* OR "non-indigenous\*" OR introduced\* OR  
6 invasive\* OR naturalized\* OR "biological invasion\*" OR bioinvasion\*) AND ((boom AND  
7 bust) OR "crash\*" OR "die-off\*" OR "die off\*" OR "reckless invader\*" OR "collapse\*" OR  
8 overshoot\*). Timespan: All years. Indexes: SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, ESCI.

9 This initial search was refined by: **[excluding] RESEARCH AREAS:** (ENGINEERING  
10 OR METALLURGY METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING OR UROLOGY NEPHROLOGY  
11 OR PHYSICS OR ONCOLOGY OR TRANSPLANTATION OR GEOCHEMISTRY  
12 GEOPHYSICS OR ARCHAEOLOGY OR ASTRONOMY ASTROPHYSICS OR CELL  
13 BIOLOGY OR PATHOLOGY OR MATERIALS SCIENCE OR MINING MINERAL  
14 PROCESSING OR CHEMISTRY OR METEOROLOGY ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES OR  
15 MATHEMATICAL METHODS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES OR SURGERY OR ENERGY  
16 FUELS OR MECHANICS OR RESEARCH EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE OR  
17 IMMUNOLOGY OR COMPUTER SCIENCE OR TRANSPORTATION OR EMERGENCY  
18 MEDICINE OR THERMODYNAMICS OR PHARMACOLOGY PHARMACY OR  
19 SPECTROSCOPY OR OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY OR OBSTETRICS GYNECOLOGY  
20 OR BIOCHEMISTRY MOLECULAR BIOLOGY OR HEALTH CARE SCIENCES  
21 SERVICES OR NEUROSCIENCES NEUROLOGY OR PEDIATRICS OR  
22 GASTROENTEROLOGY HEPATOLOGY OR PUBLIC ENVIRONMENTAL  
23 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH OR INSTRUMENTS INSTRUMENTATION OR GENERAL  
24 INTERNAL MEDICINE OR BIOTECHNOLOGY APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY OR

25 BUSINESS ECONOMICS OR ROBOTICS OR ORTHOPEDICS OR OPHTHALMOLOGY  
26 OR CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM CARDIOLOGY OR LEGAL MEDICINE OR SOCIAL  
27 SCIENCES OTHER TOPICS OR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OR  
28 ELECTROCHEMISTRY OR OPTICS OR RADIOLOGY NUCLEAR MEDICINE MEDICAL  
29 IMAGING OR ACOUSTICS OR PSYCHIATRY OR CONSTRUCTION BUILDING  
30 TECHNOLOGY OR PSYCHOLOGY OR POLYMER SCIENCE OR NUCLEAR SCIENCE  
31 TECHNOLOGY OR HEMATOLOGY OR RESPIRATORY SYSTEM OR  
32 DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY OR ANESTHESIOLOGY OR TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
33 OR AUDIOLOGY SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY OR BIOPHYSICS OR  
34 ENDOCRINOLOGY METABOLISM OR AUTOMATION CONTROL SYSTEMS OR SPORT  
35 SCIENCES OR DENTISTRY ORAL SURGERY MEDICINE OR GOVERNMENT LAW)  
36 **AND [excluding] WEB OF SCIENCE CATEGORIES:** (TROPICAL MEDICINE OR  
37 LITERATURE OR EDUCATION EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH OR MICROSCOPY OR  
38 DERMATOLOGY OR CRIMINOLOGY PENOLOGY OR COMMUNICATION OR  
39 HUMANITIES MULTIDISCIPLINARY OR GERONTOLOGY OR ANATOMY  
40 MORPHOLOGY OR GERIATRICS GERONTOLOGY OR SOCIOLOGY OR  
41 RHEUMATOLOGY OR REHABILITATION OR NUTRITION DIETETICS OR  
42 SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR MUSIC OR MINERALOGY OR PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
43 OR MEDIEVAL RENAISSANCE STUDIES OR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY  
44 OR LINGUISTICS OR HISTORY OR LANGUAGE LINGUISTICS OR ETHNIC STUDIES  
45 OR GEOLOGY OR CULTURAL STUDIES OR LOGIC OR ARCHITECTURE) **AND**  
46 **[excluding] SOURCE TITLES:** (JOURNAL OF VOLCANOLOGY AND GEOTHERMAL  
47 RESEARCH OR PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY A

48 MATHEMATICAL PHYSICAL AND ENGINEERING SCIENCES OR LINEAR ALGEBRA  
49 AND ITS APPLICATIONS OR JOVE JOURNAL OF VISUALIZED EXPERIMENTS OR  
50 GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH LETTERS OR GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA  
51 BULLETIN OR GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE OR JOURNAL OF THE GEOLOGICAL  
52 SOCIETY OR FOOD RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL OR ANNALS OF APPLIED  
53 PROBABILITY).

54       **B)** On 9 March 2016 we collected the scientific papers available on WoS that were cited  
55 by or cited Simberloff & Gibbons (2004). This was done to include potentially important boom-  
56 bust papers that might have eluded the first search.

57       All papers were analyzed in two steps. In the first step, papers with no abstract on WoS  
58 were excluded, all abstracts were screened, and papers were divided into eight categories:

59 **Category 1: Total mismatch (non-ecological):** Papers on economics, geology, molecular  
60 biology, etc. that seem to have no connection to ecology.

61 **Categories 2-3: Ecological, but no clear mention of non-native species:** Papers seem to be  
62 describing aspects of ecology or ecological research, but there is no mention of non-native  
63 species. Papers assigned to Category 2 might still be relevant to the topic of boom-bust dynamics  
64 in non-native species (e.g., theoretical papers on population dynamics), whereas papers assigned  
65 to Category 3 appeared to be irrelevant to the topic of boom-bust dynamics in non-native species.

66 **Categories 4-8: Mention of non-native species:** non-native species are mentioned in some way,  
67 not necessarily regarding population dynamics or the boom-bust phenomenon. In **Category 4)**

68 **Pest control/management**, the papers deal with the eradication or other forms of control of  
69 invaders (might also be experimental/laboratory setups), but do not necessarily mention

70 "anthropogenic" boom-bust. In **Category 5) Population changes in non-native species (not**

71 **pest control or management**), the papers address population/distribution dynamics of an  
72 invader in some way, with no clear connection to direct management/control (not necessarily  
73 regarding boom-bust). These papers may address population dynamics of other species as well.  
74 Papers in **Category 6) Influence of non-native species on other species** address native species  
75 population/distribution dynamics/changes/collapse caused by invaders, without addressing  
76 population/distribution changes in invaders (i.e., the invader is just mentioned briefly as the  
77 cause). The remaining papers that mention non-native species, and were not classified in the  
78 other three groups include theoretical papers or reviews and are divided into **Category 7)**: might  
79 be relevant to the topic of boom-bust dynamics in non-native species, and **Category 8)**:  
80 irrelevant to the topic of boom-bust dynamics in non-native species.

81 In the second step, full-text papers from Categories 2, 4, 5 and 7 were obtained and  
82 classified further as follows (all full text papers fell into one or more of these): true boom-bust  
83 dynamics in non-native species (papers describing original data documenting a boom-bust  
84 population dynamics in an alien species or providing original assessments of existing datasets);  
85 review/synopsis; model/simulation; experiment; or other. We obtained the information listed in  
86 Table A1 for all papers classified as “true boom-bust dynamics in non-native species”.

87 Fig. A1 summarizes the results of our searches. The first search (A) delivered 3,986  
88 papers before refinement, 663 after refinement, all but one of which had their abstract on WoS.  
89 Therefore, 662 abstracts were screened from this search. After the screening of abstracts, 165  
90 papers were selected for full-text analyses. The second search (B) delivered 198 papers. After  
91 duplicates (with search A) and papers with no abstract on WoS were removed, 174 papers  
92 remained. Screening of abstracts produced 68 papers for full text analysis.

93 All full text papers that described boom-bust dynamics (papers in the “Yes” category  
94 under “B. Describes boom-bust dynamics?”) were included in the qualitative synthesis (103  
95 papers). Only studies belonging to the “true boom-bust in non-native species” category were  
96 included in the quantitative analysis (56 papers). Continent, ecosystem type, and focal taxa of  
97 these papers are given in Table A2.

98 **Papers included in the qualitative synthesis** (papers marked with an asterisk were used in the  
99 quantitative analysis)

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105 population suppression of leafy spurge by insects in the mountain foothills of northern  
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136 \*Brown, M.E., Branstrator, D.K. & Shannon, L.J. (2012). Population regulation of the spiny  
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376

377 Table A1. Information obtained from full-text papers in the second step of our analysis.

- 378 A. Type of population change:
- 379 1. Population change in non-native species
  - 380 2. Population change in native species caused by non-native species
  - 381 3. Changes in an ecosystem
- 382 B. Describes boom-bust dynamics?
- 383 1. Yes
  - 384 2. No
- 385 C. Criterion for claiming that a boom-bust occurred:
- 386 1. Not given
  - 387 2. Narrative ((e.g. “the population declined precipitously” without defining what
  - 388 “precipitously” means)
  - 389 3. Quantitative
  - 390 4) Quantitative, amount of decline (%)
- 391 D. Quantitative - metric used:
- 392 1. Catch-per-unit effort (CPUE)
  - 393 2. Volumetric population density (e.g., #cells/mL)
  - 394 3. Areal population density (e.g., no./ha)
  - 395 4. Population abundance (e.g., number)
  - 396 5. % cover
  - 397 6. Biomass
  - 398 7. Total catch or hunting bag
  - 399 8. Range area
- 400 E. Taxon of non-native species:
- 401 1. Microbe
  - 402 2. Algae
  - 403 3. Plant
  - 404 4. Crustacean
  - 405 5. Insect
  - 406 6. Mollusk
  - 407 7. Other invertebrate
  - 408 8. Fish
  - 409 9. Amphibian
  - 410 10. Reptile
  - 411 11. Bird
  - 412 12. Mammal
  - 413 13. Other
- 414 F. Ecosystem involved:
- 415 1. Terrestrial
  - 416 2. Freshwater
  - 417 3. Marine
- 418 G.a. Influence (mechanism described):
- 419 1. No mechanism given for bust
  - 420 2. Mechanism hypothesized
  - 421 3. Mechanism demonstrated

422 G.b. Influence (which mechanism involved):

423 1. Predator-prey

424 2. Competition

425 3. Change in inorganic factors

426 4. Disease/parasites

427 5. Genetic

428 6. Human influence /management

429 7. Climate change

430 8. Resource depletion

431 9. Density dependence

432 10. Other factors

433 11. No mechanism given

434 H. Part of the world:

435 1. N-America

436 2. S-America

437 3. Europe

438 4. Africa

439 5. Asia

440 6. Oceania

441 7. Antarctica

442 I. Study length (years)

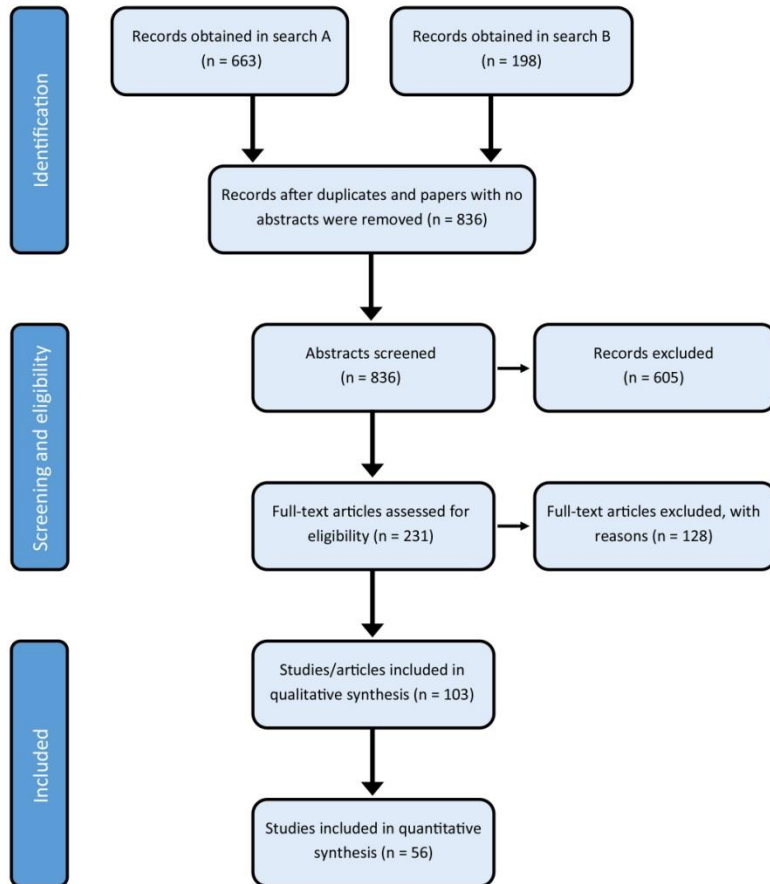
443

444 Table A2. Continent, ecosystem type, and focal taxa of scientific papers containing original  
 445 analyses of boom-bust populations (“true boom-bust in non-native species”,  $n=56$  for all  
 446 attributes).

	Number of studies	% of studies
<b>Continent</b>		
North America	25	45
Europe	16	29
Oceania	9	16
Asia	4	7
South America	1	2
Africa	1	2
Antarctica	1	2
<b>Ecosystem type</b>		
Freshwater	28	50
Terrestrial	20	36
Marine	9	16
<b>Focal taxon</b>		
Fish	11	20
Crustaceans	9	16
Insects	8	14
Molluscs	8	14
Plants	7	13
Mammals	5	9
Other invertebrates	5	9
Amphibians	2	4
Algae	1	2

447

448



449

450 Fig. A1. PRISMA flow diagram providing overview of the review protocol. All full-text papers  
 451 that described boom-bust dynamics (papers in the “Yes” category under “B. Describes boom-  
 452 bust dynamics?”) were included in the qualitative synthesis. Only studies belonging to the “true  
 453 boom-bust in non-native species” category were included in the quantitative analysis. Papers that  
 454 covered boom-bust dynamics but were for example reviews or described models or experiments

455 were included in the qualitative synthesis but excluded from the quantitative analysis in Tables 1  
456 and A1 and Fig. 3.

457 **Appendix 2: details about analyses of simulated populations**

458 We simulated the basic boom-bust-dynamic as logistic population growth from which is  
459 subtracted a logistic population bust ( $N_{bust}$ ) after time  $t_{bust}$ . Thus,

460  $N_t = N_{logistic} - N_{bust}$

461 where

462 
$$N_{logistic} = \frac{KN_0e^{rt}}{K + N_0(e^{rt} - 1)}$$

463 and

464 
$$N_{bust} = \frac{K'N_0e^{rt}}{K' + N_0(e^{rt} - 1)}$$

465 using the following parameters:  $K=100$ ,  $N_0=1$ ,  $r=1$ , and  $K'=20$ , 50, and 90 for various degrees of  
466 bust. The bust began at time-step 11 (i.e., after 10 time-steps of logistic growth), so that  $t'=t-10$ .

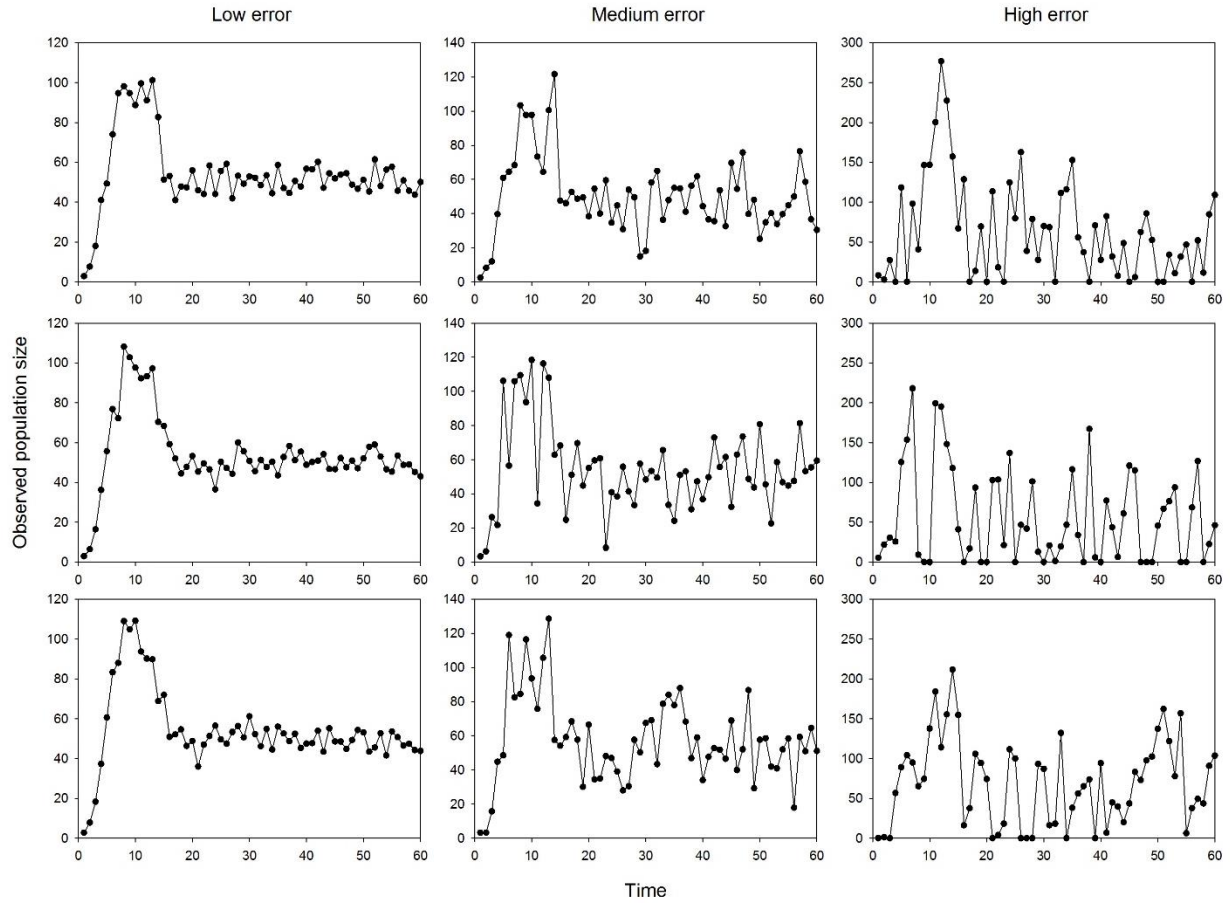
467 We ran this out to 60 time-steps.

468 Observation error was incorporated by adding an error term,  $\varepsilon_t$ , to each population size,  
469 so that  $N_{obs} = N_t + \varepsilon_t$ , for both the logistic and bust populations,  $N_{obs}$  being the observed  
470 population size. Each value of  $\varepsilon_t$  was drawn independently at random from a normal distribution  
471 as  $\varepsilon_t \sim (0, \sigma)$ , where  $\sigma$  is set at 0.1, 0.3 or 1 of  $N_t$ . We produced 1000 populations of each type (3  
472 amounts of error, 4 degrees of bust, including no bust), for a total of 12 types of populations, and  
473 12,000 individual simulated population trajectories. Occasionally, these simulations produced  
474 negative values for  $N_{obs}$ , especially for small populations subject to large observation errors. In  
475 such cases, we set  $N_{obs}$  to zero, and proceeded with subsequent calculations. Examples of  
476 simulated populations are shown in Fig. A2.

477 We calculated four specific metrics based on the observed decline from the peak  
478 observed value. First, we simply calculated the percentage decline from the observed peak (in the

479 first 30 years) to lowest observed value in the subsequent period of record. We considered  
480 periods extending 3, 10, and 30 years after the peak. Second, we calculated the severity of the  
481 bust as the percentage decline from the observed peak (again, in the first 30 years) to the *average*  
482 value in the 3, 10, or 30 years after the peak. Third, we calculated 3-year running averages of  
483 population size, and then repeated both previous estimates of bust severity. Each randomization  
484 was run for 1000 trials. Simulations were run in Excel, using the Resampling Stats add-in.  
485





486

487 Fig. A2. Examples of simulated populations. Shown here are three examples (out of 1000

488 simulations that were run for each scenario) for each of the low, medium, and high error

489 populations with a 50% bust.