

BopCo: an identification service for species of policy concern, including invasive alien species

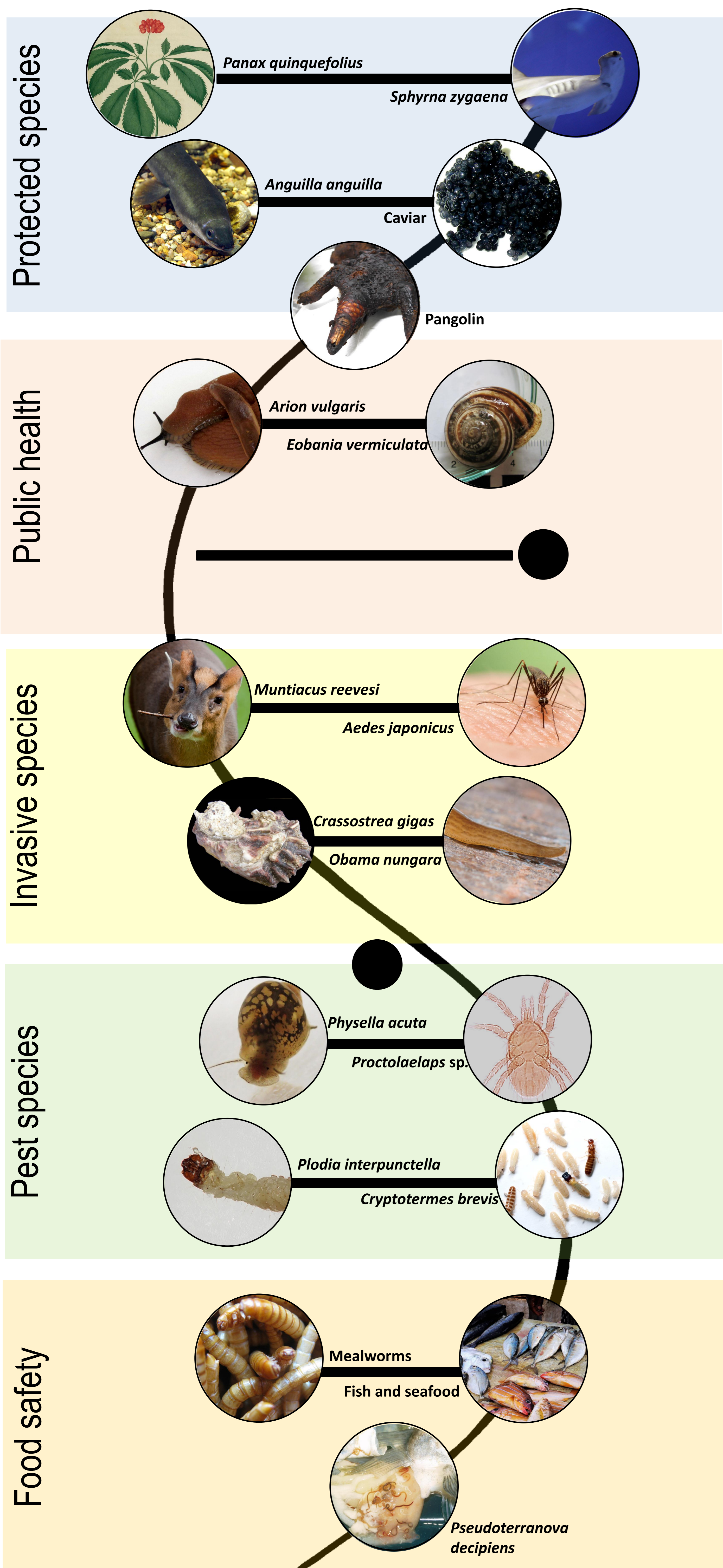


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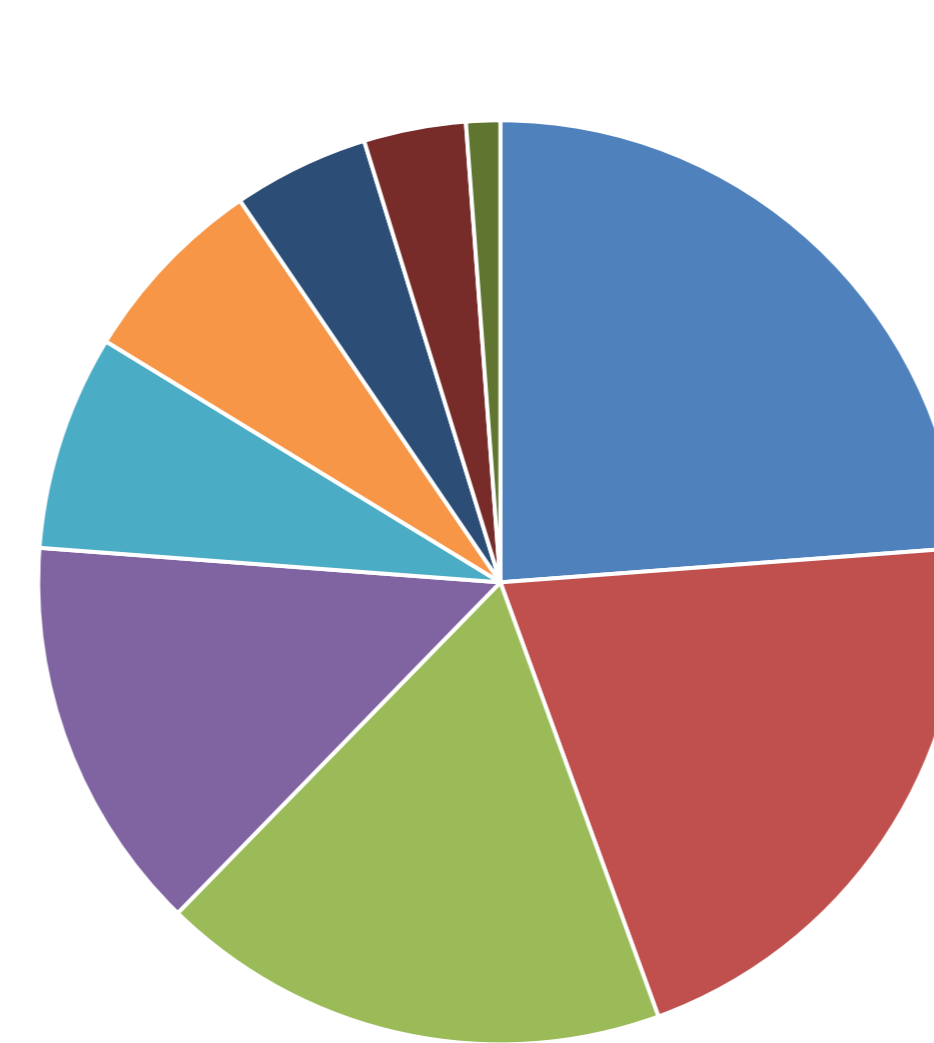
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BopCo is a **species identification service** for biological samples of policy concern, jointly run by the Institute of Natural Sciences (Brussels, Belgium) and the Royal Museum for Central Africa (Tervuren, Belgium).

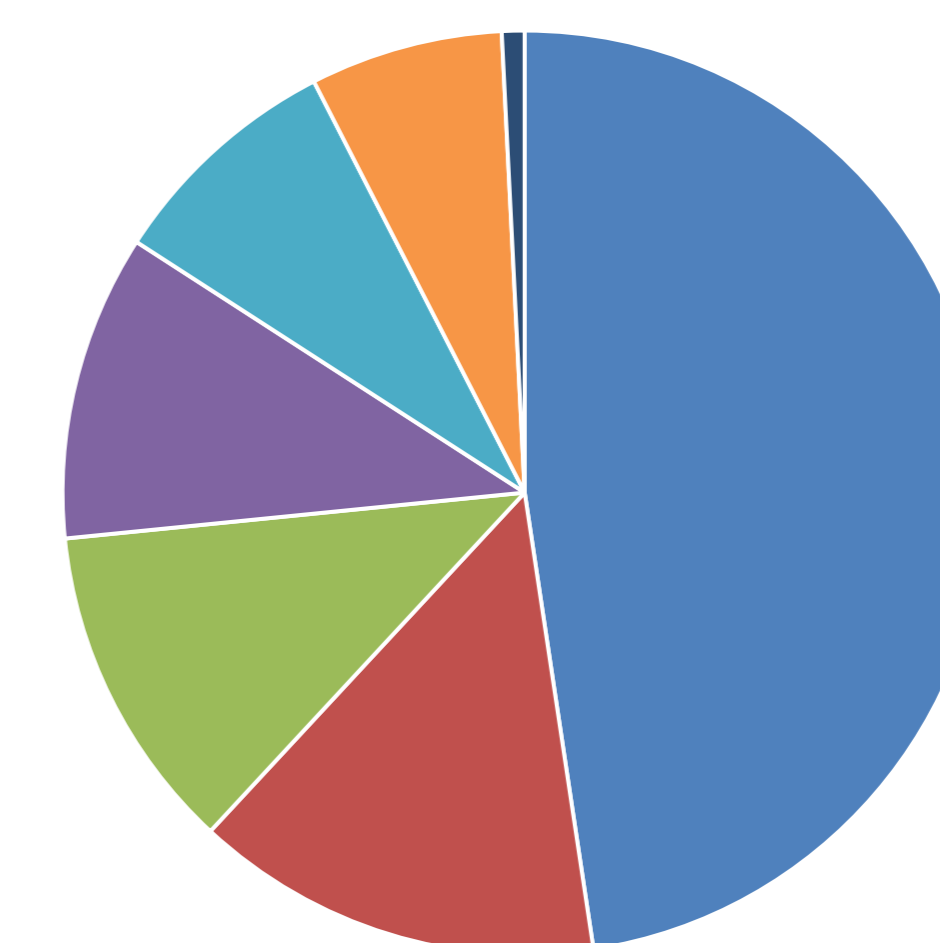


Policy concern

- Pest species
- Protected species
- Agricultural pest
- Biodiversity
- Exotic species
- Public health
- Food safety
- Museum validation
- Birdstrike

BopCo acts as a focal point for the identification of biological materials of various **policy concerns**

BopCo's identification services cater to a diverse range of **stakeholders**



Stakeholders

- Government
- Research Institute
- Private person
- University
- Company
- Museum
- NGO

Species identifications rely on

- Morphology-based** approaches, employing the taxonomic expertise and specimen collections at the Institute of Natural Sciences and the Royal Museum for Central Africa
- DNA-based** techniques, such as DNA barcoding, qPCR, microsatellites or nanopore sequencing technologies, in BopCo's fully equipped molecular laboratories

Focus on invasive alien species

BopCo contributes to studying the introduction pathways and dispersal dynamics of two **invasive mosquito species** in Belgium, *Aedes albopictus* and *Ae. japonicus*. BopCo was also involved in documenting the first occurrences of three **exotic termite species** in Belgium, and we conducted an eDNA study to monitor the presence of **invasive exotic crayfish** in waterbodies in Brussels. Furthermore, BopCo evaluates the usefulness of publicly available DNA sequence data to identify the plants and animals included by the EU on the list of "Invasive Alien Species of Union Concern". The results are presented as "**IAS Factsheets**" which aim to inform policy makers and provide relevant authorities with an identification tool for suspected IAS samples.



Asian tiger mosquito or *Aedes albopictus*



Red swamp crayfish or *Procambarus clarkii*

More info & pdf



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