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Title: Reconstructing the historical spread of non-native plants in the North American West from herbarium specimens

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Highlights

- The historical spread of the ten most frequently collected alien plant species in the U.S. Pacific Northwest could be successfully reconstructed.
- While most exotic plant species analyzed in the present study spread rather slowly, some, e.g. *B. tectorum* and *T. dubius* obviously possess the ability to expand rapidly.
- Clearly defined periods of invasiveness, which varied greatly between the observed species could be revealed.

ABSTRACT

The aim of this study is to demonstrate that the historical spread patterns of 10, in part poorly investigated exotic plant species can be reconstructed from herbarium records, using methods to account for herbarium collection bias. We collected herbarium specimen data of native and non-native plants from several North American herbaria, digitized and examined them at county scale.

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