

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

CHINESE MYSTERY SNAIL

(*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

www.reportinvasives.ca

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS SNAIL?

DESCRIPTION

- Native range from Southeast Asia to Japan and eastern Russia.
- Max size is 6.5cm, and distinguished by their large shell with 6-7 convex whorls separated by strong sutures.
- Shell is uniform in color without stripes or banding.
- Juveniles are light in color, and adults are olive-green to brownish in color.
- Chinese mystery snail prefers low flowing freshwater rivers, streams and lakes.
- Found partially buried in soft, muddy or silty substrates.
- They feed non-selectively on organic and inorganic benthic material and algae and diatoms.
- Females live up to 5 years and males live 3-4 years.
- Females give birth to live young and female fecundity is typically > 169 young in a lifetime, and young are born from June to October in North America.

They were first imported into North America in the late 1800's in live food markets in San Francisco, and were probably first released from the aquarium industry to intentionally create a local food source



Image: www.cad.edu

PRIMARY THREAT: Potential impacts include clogging of water intake pipes, vectors for transmission of parasites and diseases, and competing with native species for space.

CURRENT STATUS

January 2015 – Reports confirmed in five lakes on Southern Vancouver Island, four confirmed reports in downtown Victoria and one confirmed report in a lake near Mission, BC. Risk assessment is in progress. No effective eradication method exists.

DISTRIBUTION

Chinese mystery snails have been introduced into approximately 27 states in the U.S. and they have been reported in Ontario and the Great Lakes including Lake Erie, Ontario, Superior and Michigan

DID YOU KNOW?

They have an operculum which is also known as a “trap door” which can close and provide protection from desiccation and predation. Experiments have shown that they can survive exposure to air for at least 4 weeks, making chemical treatment ineffective. When the Chinese mystery snail dies, they omit an unpleasant odor.

LOOK-ALIKES

Banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georgianus*) – non-native and not present in BC, Olive mystery snail (*Viviparus subpurpureus*) and Apple snails (Ampullariidae) non-native and not present in BC.

