

INVASIVE SPECIES FACT SHEET

Common name: Chinese and Japanese
Mystery Snails

Family: *Viviparidae*

Order: *Architaenioglossa*

Class: *Gastropoda*

Species: *Cipangopaludina chinensis* and
Cipangopaludina japonica

Origin: Southeast Asia to Japan and
Eastern Russia

Size: Maximum shell length 2.5 inches



Chinese Mystery Snail

Description:

- Chinese and Japanese mystery snail shells are strong and smooth.
- They are uniform in color without stripes or banding.
- Shells vary between light and dark olive-green and can have 6 to 8 dextral (to the right) whorls.
- Whorls are strongly convex and each suture is highly indented.
- The outer lip is round or oval and black in color.
- Mystery snails have an operculum, more commonly known as a "trap door," which the snail can close, providing additional protection to reduce the risk of desiccation and predation.

Ecology:

- Found in lakes, ponds, rice paddies, irrigation and roadside ditches and slower portions of streams where there is mud substrate.
- Mystery snails feed on algae, zooplankton and phytoplankton.
- These snails were likely introduced to Oregon through releases from the aquarium trade; they are also sold in specialty food markets.

Status: Prohibited in Oregon

Interesting Facts:

Mystery snails do not lay eggs, they give live birth. A single snail can produce over 30 new snails two to three times a year!

Impact:

Mystery snails can host parasites and diseases that are known to infect humans. Their shells can obstruct intake pipe screens and restrict water flow. They also compete with native snails for food and habitat resources.

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Action:

- Do not release these snails into the wild.
- Stop the spread: Clean, drain and dry your boat and gear between water bodies.
- If you have snails and other animals in an aquarium that you no longer want, euthanize them before discarding in the trash.
- Call 1-866-INVADER to report location of Chinese or Japanese mystery snail infestations.

Additional information is available on the USGS website, nonindigenous aquatic species section.



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