

## 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

### 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 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

### Impact:

Mystery snails can host parasites and diseases that are known to infect humans. Their shells can obstruct intake

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pipe screens and restrict water flow. They also compete with native snails for food and habitat resources.

## 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 1-800-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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