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  

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
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.