

Chinese Mystery Snail

(*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)

Chinese Mystery Snail



Origin/ History

The Chinese Mystery Snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*) was originally from Asia. The snail was first introduced in the United States in 1892 to San Francisco food Markets. Since then the species have spread to both coast and the Great Lakes, 27 states in total. The probable cause of the spread and release of the snail was through the home aquarium market.

Identification

Size: Adult snails are often over 1.5 inches in length.

Color: Light to dark olive green color with no bands.



Special Features:

6-7 convex whorls on top of shell.

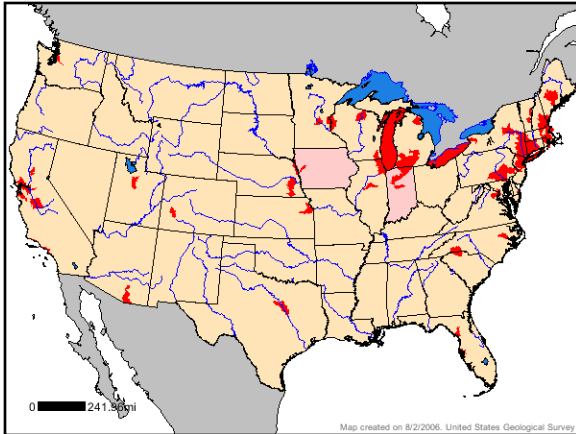
Presence of an operculum (trapdoor), which seals off the snail from adverse water conditions.

Habitat: The snails prefer a mud substrate where there is minimal disturbance. They are found in lakes, rivers, ponds, irrigation ditches, and slow portions of streams.

Impacts

The Chinese Mystery Snail has many negative impacts including the transmission of parasites, the clogging of water intake pipes, and the out competing of native snails. In addition they have created a negative impact on fisheries.

Spread



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Control

The best know controls for the Chinese Mystery Snail are biological controls and manual removal. The biological controls include snail eating fish and turtles that could decreases the population, but may have other impacts on the ecosystem.

Chemical control of the snails does not work because of there operculum, which allows for them to seal out the toxins until the toxins are fully dissipated. The chemicals then cause more damage to the surrounding ecosystem than to the snails.

Look-a-Likes: Native Snails in Lake George

Ramshorn *Helisoma Trivolvis*



A Ramshorn's whorled shell lays flat, unlike the protruding whorls of the Chinese Mystery Snail.

Physella gyrina *Physella gyrina*



Native snails, like the *Physella gyrina*, **do not** have an operculum (trap door).

If you think you have found the Chinese Mystery Snail please contact the LGA at (518)-668-3558 or by email at info@LakeGeorgeAssociation.org.

