

New Zealand Mud Snail

(*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

The New Zealand mud snail is a tiny gastropod that was first introduced into North America's waterways from New Zealand sometime in the 1980s. There are multiple pathways that are suspect for their initial introduction: transfer in fish eggs, in amongst game fish, or through ballast water from a transoceanic ship.

Masthead photo: Doug Watkinson, DFO

Range

New Zealand mud snails are commonly found in slow moving waters as opposed to fast flowing waters, such as freshwater ponds, streams, rivers, lakes, ditches, and reservoirs. As an invasive species, the New Zealand mud snail thrives in disturbed watersheds, from fresh to brackish water, with sand, silt, and mud substrates.



Photo: Daniel Gustafson

The New Zealand mud snail is currently found in the Great Lakes. In the United States along the Great Lakes, New Zealand mud snail has been confirmed in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

To check New Zealand mud snail's current distribution, visit the EDDMapS Ontario website.

Impacts of New Zealand Mud Snail

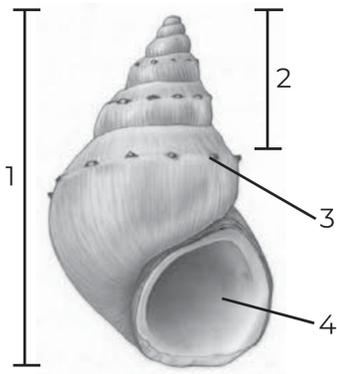
- Out-competes native snails and other aquatic insect populations, which are both important food sources for native fish.
- The New Zealand mud snail reproduces rapidly and can reach high densities of up to 300,000 individuals/m².
- Can survive out of water for multiple days as it has the ability to close its shell opening (called the operculum), meaning it can be easily transferred to other waterbodies via boats and fishing equipment, if these are not properly cleaned.
- There are no known male mud snails in North America, which means that all the individuals are asexual females and a single introduction could establish a new population.



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How to Identify New Zealand Mud Snail

- 1 Length of snail is 8mm or less.
- 2 Cone-shaped shell.
- 3 Shell has 5-8 whorls that end in a point.
- 4 Operculum (not shown) can cover the opening of the shell.



Drawing: U.S. Geological Survey



Photo: Daniel Gustafson



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What You Can Do

- Learn how to identify invasive snails and how to prevent accidentally spreading invasive species.
- Inspect and clean your boat, trailer, and equipment after each use. Remove all plants, animals, and mud before moving to a new waterbody.
- Drain water from motor, live well, bilge, and transom wells while on land and at least 30m from the waterbody.
- Empty your bait bucket at least 30m from shore on land before leaving any waterbody. Never release bait into any waterbody.
- Clean all recreational equipment through pressure washing, hot water, or let it dry for at least 5 days.
- If you find invasive snails or other invasive species in the wild, please contact the toll-free Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711, or visit www.eddmaps.org/Ontario to report a sighting.

Other Resources:

www.invadingspecies.com
www.Ontario.ca/invasivespecies
www.EDDMapS.org/Ontario

For More Information:

Please contact the Invading Species Hotline at 1-800-563-7711.

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