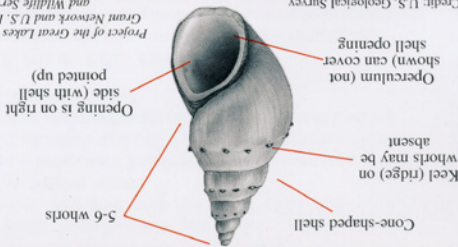


General Characteristics

- Small, up to 1/5 inch (5 mm) long
- Difficult to distinguish from native snails; shell more elongated
- Usually horn-colored, but ranges from light to dark brown

Credit: U.S. Geological Survey

Project of the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment.

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!



(Use the following illustration as a guide; some characteristics may be absent.)

How to Identify New Zealand Mudsnaails

New Zealand Mudsnail WATCH

Not Actual Sizes



Credit: Larry Mayer

Credit: Daniel L. Gustafson

New Zealand Mudsnaails

New Zealand mudsnails (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) are tiny invasive snails that threaten the food webs of trout streams and other waters. Native to New Zealand, they were first found in Idaho's Snake River in 1987. They quickly spread to other Western rivers, sometimes reaching densities over 500,000 per square meter. In the Great Lakes, mudsnails were first found in Lake Ontario in the early 1990s. In 2001, they were found in Lake Superior in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and in 2005 in the Duluth-Superior Harbor, likely spread by ballast water discharged from ships.

Anglers pose a risk for spreading New Zealand mudsnails because they can be moved on waders and gear. They can close their shells allowing them to survive out of water for days. One snail can reproduce and start a new infestation. Eradicating infestations is nearly impossible. Your help in detecting and reporting new infestations is vital for preventing their spread.

What you can do

- **Learn** to recognize New Zealand mudsnails (see back cover).
- **Inspect** and **remove** visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from waders, hip boots, and field gear before transporting.
- **Drain** lake or river water from livewell and bilge.
- **Rinse** waders, hip boots, and gear with hot water (120° F or 45° C), **OR**
- **Dry** gear for five days before reuse.
- **Report** new sightings – note exact location; put specimen in a sealed container with rubbing alcohol; and call the *Invading Species Hotline*, 1-800-563-7711, www.invadingspecies.com, or your local Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources office.

REMINDER: Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit possession of invasive aquatic animals and plants. Contact your local natural resource management agency for instructions. Unauthorized introduction of fish, crayfish, or plants into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.

