

Faucet snail

Bithynia tentaculata

Description

Discovered in the Great Lakes in the 1870s and was introduced via vegetation in packing crates or in ballast water.

Identification

Grow up to 1/2 in long and are pale brown in color. Their shells develop 4-5 whorls and the opening is on the right side when the shell is pointed up. An operculum is present to close the opening.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in freshwater ponds, shallow lakes, and canals.

Reproduction

Dioecious, lays eggs on rocks, wood and shells in organized aggregates arranged in double rows, in clumps of 1-77. Egg-laying occurs from May to July and a second time in October and November by females born early in the year. Females may lay up to 347 eggs and is greatest





for the 2nd year. Eggs hatch in 3 weeks to 3 months, depending on water temps. Lifespan is normally 17-39 months.

Impact

Similar

Banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georgianus*) and Chinese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Populations can be difficult or impossible to eradicate, so preventing the spread is important. Clean, Drain, Dry. Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boats and other equipment before moving to another waterbody. Spray with high-pressure hot (120 F) water for a few minutes.

Credits

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