MISIN Midwest Invasive Species Information Network

Wandering broadhead planarian

Bipalium adventitium

Description

Introduced to the United States from Asia. Commonly found in suburban areas and nurseries where exotic plants are prevalent. Carries the neurotoxin, Tetrodotoxin, which may be used as a defense mechanism.

Identification

Grow to 5-8 cm. (2.0-3.1 in.) long, head is fan-shaped, yellow to tan in color with on dark dorsal stripe that does not extend over the head.

Habitat

Native to Asia. Can be found in gardens and woodlands under objects like leaf litter, where soil is moist.

Reproduction

Reproduces sexually with one breeding season per year. Eggs are deposited in capsules and after 3 weeks, 1-6 juveniles are released.

Impact

Source: MISIN. 2024. Midwest Invasive Species Information Network. Michigan State University - Applied Spatial Ecology and Technical Services Laboratory. Available online at https://www.misin.msu.edu/facts/detail.php?id=418.

Preys on earthworms.

Similar

Arrowhead flatworm (Bipalium kewense).

Credits

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