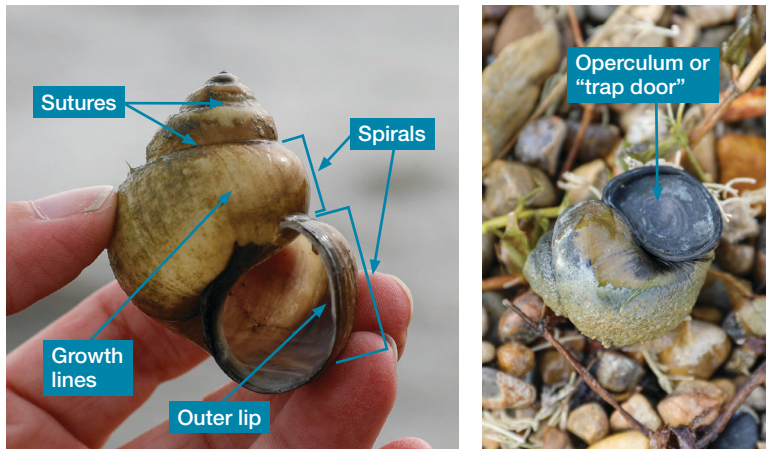


# ALERT: AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

## Chinese Mystery Snail

(*Cipangopaludina chinensis*)

**Other names:** Oriental Mystery Snail, Mystery Snail, Trapdoor Snail, Asian Apple Snail, Chinese Apple Snail



### REASON FOR ALERT:

Chinese Mystery Snail was recently detected for the first time in Alberta in Lake McGregor. Since 2015, Chinese mystery snail has been listed under the *Fisheries (Alberta) Act* as a prohibited species. It is illegal to possess, release, sell or transport this species within the province.

### What's the threat?

#### Chinese Mystery Snail:

- Competes with native snail species for food and habitat
- Clogs water intake pipes and other submerged equipment
- Possible host for parasites and diseases, which could impact health of other species
- Survives exposure to air or other harmful conditions for up to four weeks, making eradication extremely difficult

### How are they spread and where are they found?

- Native to Eastern Asia – often found buried in soft, muddy or silty substrates of slow-moving freshwater lakes, streams and rivers
- Introduced for culinary purposes as well as by the pet trade industry
- Females give birth to more than 160 live, fully developed young in a lifetime.
- Populations can be found in southern Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Quebec and British Columbia
- The only report of this species in Alberta was in 2019 in Lake McGregor

### Description

- Large, brown to olive coloured shell, juveniles are light in color
- Grow up to 6.5 cm in size
- Shell has 6-7 spirals, fine growth lines, distinct sutures, and a black outer lip surrounding a hard operculum (trap door)

### How can you help?

- Learn how to identify Chinese Mystery Snail and other aquatic invasive species
- Report all sightings to the Aquatic Invasive Species hotline at 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)
- Raise awareness to prevent the introduction of this species into Alberta waters
- Never import, own, sell or transport this species in Alberta

If you have seen a Chinese Mystery Snail for sale or in Alberta waters, report it immediately to the Aquatic Invasive Species hotline

**1-855-336-BOAT (2628)**