

Aquatic  
Invasive  
Invertebrate

# Chinese and Banded Mystery Snails

*Cipangopaludina chinensis* and *Viviparus georgianus*



## What is it and Why is it a Problem?

Chinese Mystery Snails and Banded Mystery Snails are invasive species of freshwater snails that reproduce quickly in disturbed watersheds with silt, sand and mud substrates. Scientific evidence suggests that they may prey on fish eggs and thus may pose a threat to native species of fish. They also outcompete native snails for food and habitat, thus reducing their populations and the populations of their predators. In addition, they have been known to clog water intake pipes at lakeside residences.



## What Does it Look Like?

- Chinese Mystery Snails: grow up to 6.5 cm long, olive-green to brown or reddish, has 6-7 whorls with prominent sutures (rigid joint) in between and an operculum ("trapped door" that closes off the opening of the shell) that is oblong with concentric growth rings
- Banded Mystery Snails: grow up to 3.5 cm long, yellow to greenish brown in colour with 3 - 4 dark reddish-brown bands, has 4 - 5 whorls with deep sutures in between and an operculum that is ear-shaped with concentric growth rings



## How Can it be Managed?

- Report sightings of any invasive species online through [EDDMapS Ontario](#), a web-based mapping system which also has an app, or through the [Invasive Species in Ontario](#) project on [iNaturalist.org](#).
- Learn how to identify it so you can avoid accidentally spreading it with your fishing gear and equipment. Inspect your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving a fishing spot and before heading to a new fishing spot to remove any mud, plant fragments and animals. Dispose of any animal and plant matter in the garbage. You should clean your boat and equipment with a high power pressure wash using hot water OR leave it to sit in the sun for a minimum of 5 days. Refer to the [OMNRF's Boater's Action Plan](#) for more information on cleaning your boat and gear.
- Release water from your motor, live well, bilge and transom wells once on land.
- If you happen to catch a Chinese or Banded Mystery Snail or notice one on your equipment or boat, you must destroy it to prevent further growth and reproduction - do not put it back into the water.
- Do not release live bait into the water body - it is illegal to release live baitfish. They may also carry invasive species in their containers from other water bodies that you cannot see. Instead, you can freeze or salt your live bait to save for another use. If you are not going to use it again, you can throw it in the garbage.
- Do not release aquarium or pond contents into water bodies. Oftentimes invasive aquatic animals end up reaching water bodies when people dispose of them in lakes and rivers.
- If you wish to control or eradicate an invasive species, you could require a permit under the Invasive Species Act. Also, ensure that you are following federal rules under the Fisheries Act. For more information, refer to [OMNRF's rules](#) regarding removing invasive species. You can contact [invasive.species@ontario.ca](mailto:invasive.species@ontario.ca) for more information on obtaining authorization.



Chinese Mystery Snail



Banded Mystery Snail

## References

[Great Lakes Nonindigenous Species Information System](#), produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program](#), developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).



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