

Cipangopaludina chinensis

Chinese Mystery Snail

Invasive to Maine

Freshwater
Ponds and Lakes

Shell Spire (Spiraled End)



Wiki Commons user USGS



Look for a snail with a shell that is smooth and strong. The shell can have 6 to 7 whorls, which are strongly convex (bulging) and very indented. The snail has a long spire (spiraled end), and a rounded apex (tip).

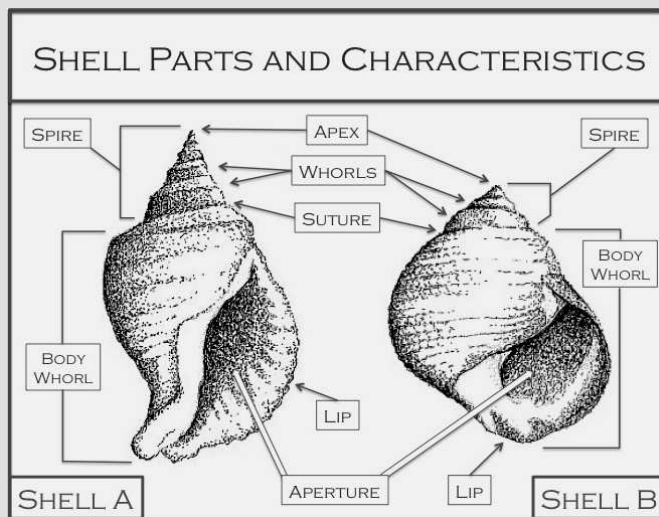
Full View



Vital Signs user IndNewtonGreen



Look for a large (up to 7 cm) snail with chipping and weathering on the top whorl of the shell. The outer lip is rounded and black.



Shell Aperture (Opening)



Vital Signs user IndNewtonGreen



Look for an operculum (trap door) that allows the snail to close the opening in their shell if water conditions are poor. The operculum is dark, solid, and has concentric rings.

Color Variations



Flickr user Sankax



The Chinese mystery snail is uniform in color, usually a light to dark olive-green. This snail does not have any color banding.

Similar Species

The brown mystery snail is similar to the Chinese mystery snail. The snails are both greenish, large, and have operculums. Differences between the snails include that the brown mystery snail is smaller and narrower than the Chinese mystery snail.

Fun Fact

The female mystery snail gives birth to live crawling young. This means it may only take one impregnated snail to start a new population.

Researched and created by: Rebecca Martin

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.



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