

Alert !

Report sightings of this species:

- online: <https://irecord.org.uk/>
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- or scan QR code to report a sighting:



Chinese mystery snail

Scientific name: *Cipangopaludina chinensis*

Also known as: Black snail, or Trapdoor snail

Native to: Southeast Asia to Japan and Eastern Russia

Habitat: Prefers freshwater waterbodies with soft, muddy, or silty bottoms. Tolerates slow moving and stagnant water.

A large freshwater snail (up to 65 mm) with an unbanded, greenish shell and large aperture. The shell is globose, conical, with a sharp apex and relatively higher spire and has concentrically marked opercula, and 6-7 whorls.

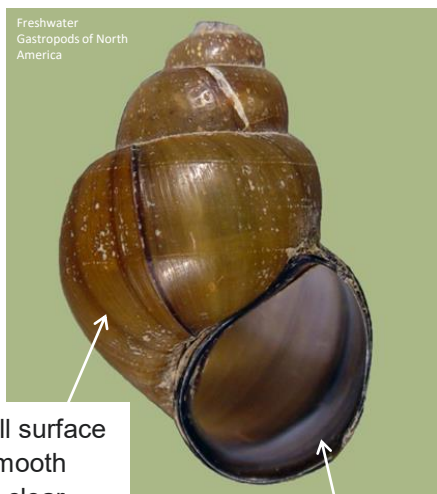
Locally established in two main areas in Great Britain (GB). May outcompete other molluscs and filter feeders for food and habitat. It is illegal to release Chinese mystery snail in GB, for details of legislation visit: www.nonnativespecies.org/legislation.



Gavin Measures

Key ID Features

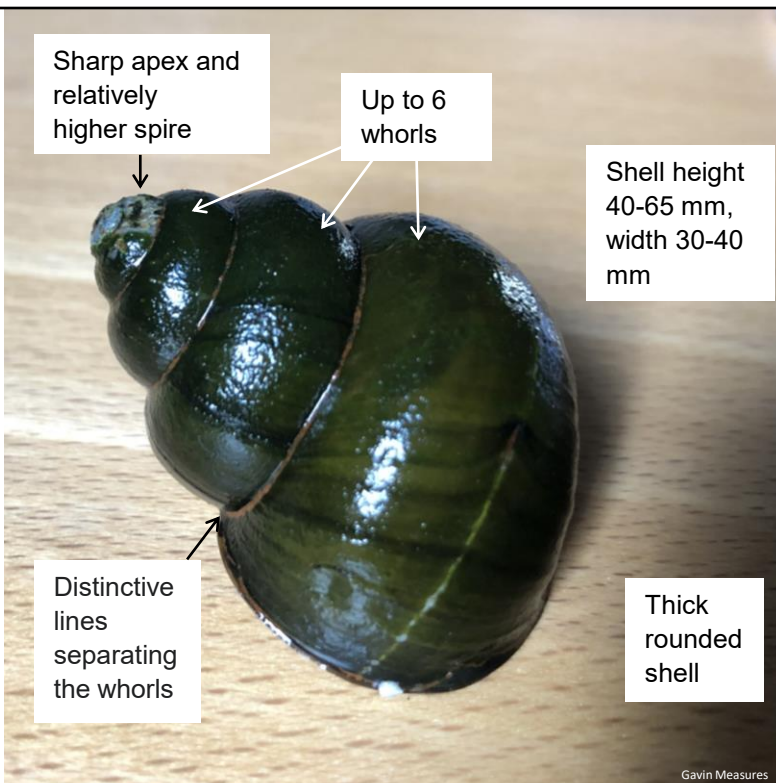
Colouration ranges from a light coloration as a juvenile to olive green, greenish brown, brown or reddish-brown pigmentation as an adult.



Freshwater
Gastropods of North
America

Shell surface
is smooth
with clear
growth lines

Aperture large, ovate



Sharp apex and
relatively
higher spire

Up to 6
whorls

Shell height
40-65 mm,
width 30-40
mm

Distinctive
lines
separating
the whorls

Thick
rounded
shell

Gavin Measures

Similar Species

There are a number of native freshwater snails in GB, including the great pond snail (*Lymnaea stagnalis*), Lister's river snail (*Viviparus contectus*), and the common river snail (*V. viviparus*). Chinese mystery snail can be distinguished from these species by its size, larger aperture and lack of red-brown bands of *Viviparus* species.

Great pond snail

Native
(*Lymnaea stagnalis*)

Shell height
40 mm

Light to
dark brown
in colour

4.5 to 6 whorls,
upper whorls are
sharply pointed

Last whorl
is inflated

B. Schoenmakers, CC BY 3.0

Lister's river snail

Native
(*Viviparus contectus*)

Shell height
32–35 mm

Apex sharply
pointed

Glossy
green-
brown shell
with three
red-brown
spiral
bands

H. Zell, CC BY-SA 3.0

Common river snail

Native
(*Viviparus viviparus*)

Blunt apex

Shell is yellow-
green with distinct
brown spiral stripes
(that follow the
direction of the
whorls).

5 to 6 whorls

Shell
height
40 mm

Lamiot, CC BY-SA 4.0

Further information:

- <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/4562>
- <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/full/10.1079/cabicompendium.113323>