



Aquatic Nuisance Species Program Aquatic Invasive Species Alert

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**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Island applesnail

Pomacea insularum

These snails are a tropical/subtropical species, normally not known to withstand water temperatures below 50°F. This is the most commonly introduced species in the Southeast and is originally thought to be the channeled applesnail. The Island applesnail (IAS) was most likely released by persons in the tropical pet industry or an aquarist. Their egg masses are easily identified. They are pink to almost red in color and are attached to various hard substrates which are above the water line like pilings and any type of significant vegetation. These snails are considered to be among the 100 world's worst invaders according to the Global Invasive Species Database.



YOU CAN HELP!
If you see these egg casings please report the findings to SCDNR. Removal of these egg casings will effectively reduce the viability of the eggs to zero and help to eliminate expansion of the population. Simply pull them off, crush them, and drop them in the water.



Potential Impacts

Because they eat such a wide range of aquatic plants, IAS are a potential threat to South Carolina aquatic ecosystems. Because invasive infestations can be very dense and cover large areas they can harm the aquatic environment. Snails may destroy native plant species and drastically effect the food web with their ability to out compete native snail species.

Human health threats are also associated with this species. Although, unlikely unless consumed, it has been shown to be a vector for disease and parasites such as the rat lungworm, which can cause fatal eosinophilic meningoencephalitis disease in humans. Snails can also cause skin irritations, since they can be intermediate hosts to other associated trematodes (flukes).

Please do not handle specimens without gloves and never eat undercooked or raw snails.