

FAUCET SNAIL

Bithynia tentaculata



Faucet Snail Shell

Robert Aguilar, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
Wikipedia Commons



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



Michal Manas, Flickr



Paul Skawinski UW-Stevens Point Extension Lakes

IDENTIFICATION

SIZE:

Shell is 12-15 mm (~1/2 inch) in length.

COLOR:

Shiny, pale brown shell.

SHAPE:

Coiled spiral shell, with ~5 coils and a teardrop opening. The operculum (flat plate-like structure) has concentric lines (rings that are inside one another).

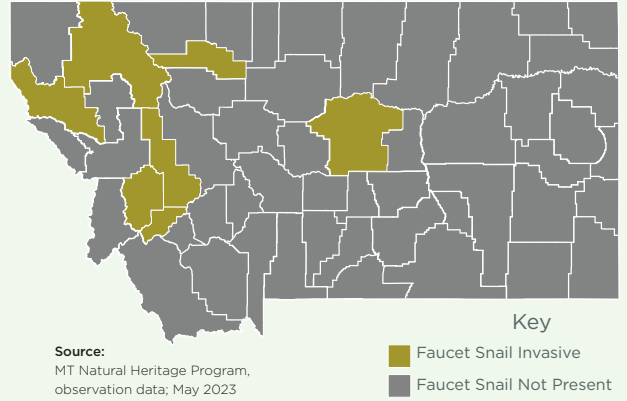
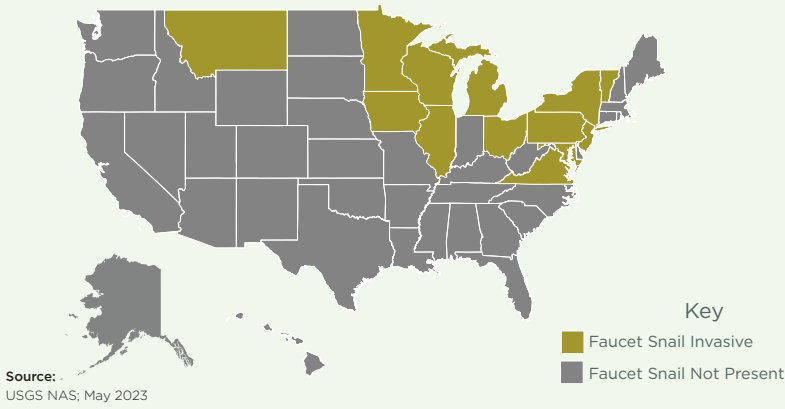
ALTERNATIVE NAMES:

Mud Bithynia

For more detailed information on Protecting Montana Waters from Aquatic Invasive Species visit

<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species>

DISTRIBUTION



HABITAT:

Commonly found in freshwater ponds, shallow lakes, and canals attached to the substrate or aquatic macrophytes.

NATIVE TO:

Europe

PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

Faucet snails were first introduced to the Great Lakes through cargo ship ballast water. The species has since spread throughout the US by boats and other water equipment. They can survive up to a month in dried mud, so to prevent the spread, clean, drain, and dry any fishing equipment, boats, or anything else that has come into contact with water.

IMPACTS:

Are vectors of parasites that are spread to waterfowl when ingested and have been attributed to massive die-offs. Also outcompete native snails for resources and can clog intake screens and pipes.

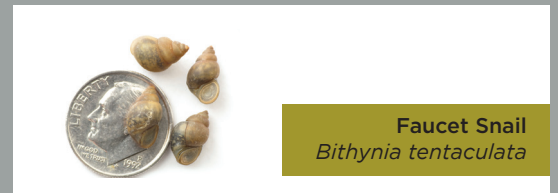
IN MONTANA:

Lake Frances, Smith Lake, Upsata Lake, Georgetown Reservoir, Lost Loon Lake, Browns Lake McWenegar Slough, Whitefish Lake, Rattlesnake Reservoir, and Flathead Lake

Sources:
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources,
Montana Field Guide, USGS NAS

LOOKALIKES:

The faucet snail is similar in shape to the invasive chinese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*), however the faucet snail is significantly smaller.



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If you see or suspect a new infestation of an invasive plant or animal, please save a specimen, and record the location.

Report observations to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at
<https://fwp.mt.gov/conservation/aquatic-invasive-species/report-an-ais>
Or call the MT FWP front desk at 406-444-2440

