

NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAIL

Potamopyrgus antipodarum



Michal Mañas, Wikipedia Commons



Dean Kozanic



Mike Gangloff, Bugwood



Paul Skawinski UW-Stevens Point Extension Lakes

IDENTIFICATION

SIZE:

4-6 mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ in) in length.

COLOR:

Shell colors vary from gray to dark brown to light brown.

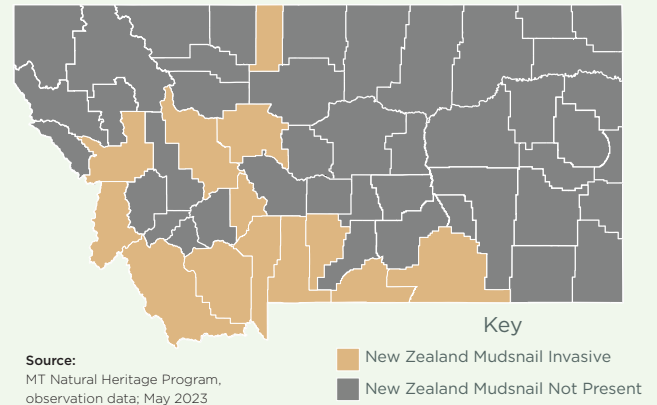
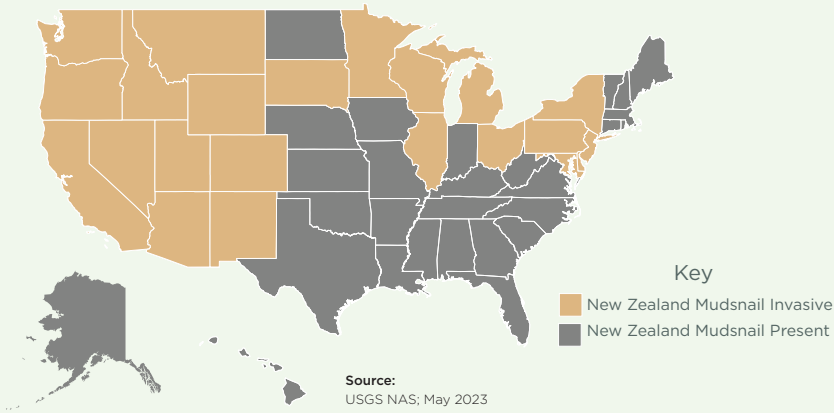
SHAPE:

Shell is coiled to the right, with 7-8 coils separated by deep grooves with a trapdoor on opening (operculum).

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

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

DISTRIBUTION



HABITAT:

Lives in the substrates and in flowing water or cool lakes and especially thrives on poor water quality with lots of algae to feed on. Does not tolerate below freezing temperatures

NATIVE TO:

New Zealand

PREVENTION AND SPREAD:

New Zealand mudsnails were first introduced to the US via cargo ship ballast water. The species has since spread throughout the US by boats, waders, fishing gear, 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:

Outcompete native snails, mussels, and insects that native fish feed on, which can significantly impact these native species' populations.

IN MONTANA:

Present in the following watersheds: Beaverhead; Bighorn, Bitterroot; Gallatin; Lower Bighorn; Madison; Red Rock; Ruby; Upper Missouri; Upper Missouri-Dearborn; Upper Yellowstone; Yellowstone Headwaters

Sources: USFWS, USGS, Montana Field Guide, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

LOOKALIKES:

New Zealand Mudsnail



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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

