Invasive Species Alert

New Zealand Mudsnail

(*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Average of 1/8 inch long
- 5-6 whorls on shell
- Shells vary from light brown to black
- Difficult to identify

Habitat: New Zealand mud snails can tolerate a wide variety of habitats, including reservoirs, estuaries, rivers, and lakes. They are most prolific in water bodies with a constant temperature and flow, but are highly adaptable.

Diet: Diet consists of diatoms, detritus, and plant and animal matter attached to submerged debris.

Native Range: New Zealand

Local Concern: While mudsnails are able to reproduce sexually, it is not always necessary. Populations in the U.S. are made up almost entirely of self-cloning parthenogenetic females. In a matter of one year, a single female could result in a colony of 40 million snails. They hold no nutritional value for native fishes, so populations in the U.S. do not fall subject to predation.

U.S. Distribution: Western United States, Great Lakes, and the Chesapeake Bay

Means of Introduction: Possibly via ballast water of transoceanic vessels or game fish imports

Report this species to Seth Herbst, MDNR, at herbsts1@michigan.gov or 517-284-5841 or at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN app to your smartphone