

Invasive Species Alert

Carthusian Snail

(*Monacha cartusiana*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Shells are a pale white/yellow color
- Shell may have brown stripes
- Aperture (opening of shell) is typically the darkest part of the shell in adults
- Shells size: 6-10 mm high, 9-17 mm wide



Photo: L. R. Kolouch, Bugwood.org

Habitat: Dry, grassy areas are the preferred habitat of these snails. During the day, they attach to the stems of grasses and plants.

Diet: These exotic snails feed on a wide variety of live and dead plant materials and act as a pest to native vegetation.

Native Range: Mediterranean region and Southeastern Europe

Local Concern: Carthusian snails are an intermediate host for livestock parasites, including sheep lungworm disease. Additionally, established populations may cause damage to horticultural and agricultural crops and threaten native plant communities. Two populations have been found in the Detroit area and are under treatment due to a high pest potential.



Photo: F. Geller-Grimm, Wikimedia.org

Means of Introduction: It is thought that marble, stone, and tile imports are significant risk pathways for exotic snails and slugs.

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