



Faucet Snail (*Bithynia tentaculata*)

SEARCH LOCATIONS

- On **substrate** year round (river and lake bottoms on/under rock, sand, clay or mud)
- On **aquatic plants** during the warmer months
- On **docks** and other objects placed in the water
- Shorelines in water **up to 5 meter depth**

SEARCH TIME

- Snails may be found **year round**

SEARCH IMAGE

- **Spiral-shell** snail
- **Up to 0.5 inches** long

IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ 1) **Corkscrew-like** — spiral tapers to a point

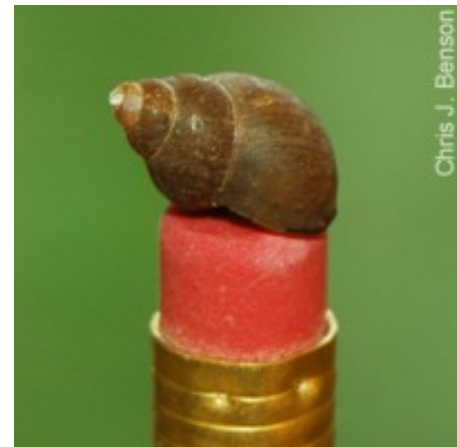


Amy Benson, USGS



Search image

MN DNR



Chris J. Benson

MN Sea Grant

MN NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES with tiny, spiral snail shells

Fossaria snails

~ 1/2 inch

- Very similar to faucet snails—**consult a professional to distinguish from faucet snails**



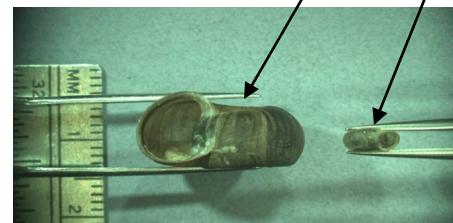
Andrew Hicks et al.



Planar snails



- **Spiral is in a single plain**— does **not** taper to a point



INFORMATION ON HUBBARD COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH:

Faucet Snail

(Bithynia tentaculata)

MINNESOTA STATUS: *Prohibited invasive species*

It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce faucet snails except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

IF YOU FIND A NEW OCCURANCE OF ANY SMALL SNAIL THAT FITS THE FAUCET SNAIL DESCRIPTION

- 1) Record its location (GPS coordinates, labeled dot on map or landmark)
- 2) Record the date
- 3) Document the plant (electronic images that include items on the “checklist”)
- 4) Provide this information to the local MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. Name and contact information can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>

METHOD(S) OF REPRODUCTION

- Female snails lay their eggs on rocks, wood and shells
- Egg-laying occurs from May to July when water temperature is 20°C or higher—fecundity may reach up to 347 eggs and is greatest for the 2nd year class.
- Eggs hatch in three weeks to three months, depending on water temperature—growth usually does not occur from September to May.
- Lifespan varies regionally and can be anywhere from 17 – 39 months

PATHWAYS OF SPREAD

- Snails can spread by attaching to aquatic plants, boats, anchors, decoy anchors, other recreational gear and equipment placed in the water.
- Some movement by waterbirds may also spread this invasive to new waters.

OTHER INFORMATION

- Faucet snails can close their shells allowing them to survive out of water for days.
- Eradicating infestations is nearly impossible.
- They host three intestinal flukes that can kill scaup, coots, and other waterfowl that consume them.

RESOURCES

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: <http://www.invasive.org>

MN Dept. of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index_aquatic.html and http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2012_invasive_species_annual_report_final.pdf

2/2016

Since it is difficult to distinguish the native snails from the non-native, invasive Faucet snail, ***please report every occurrence of tiny, corkscrew-like snails.***