

The Banded Mystery Snail–A Sneaky Intruder

The Banded mystery snail (*Viviparus georgianus*) is a non-native snail that has become a growing concern here in Vermont. Though native to southeastern and midwestern United States, they were intentionally introduced to the northeast via the Hudson River by an amateur conchologist in 1854. Initially, the continued spread of the species was most likely due to aquarium releases. Populations were first observed in Vermont in 1962 in Lake Bomoseen. They have now been confirmed in several other waterbodies across the state, and most likely are more widespread than have been reported. Banded mystery Snails are light brown with reddish-brown horizontal stripes following the spiral of their shells. They do not exceed 1.5 inches at maturity, setting them apart from the larger, two-inch Chinese mystery snail (*Cipangopaludina chinensis*), also nonnative. Although small, this snail should not be overlooked, as it can have profound impacts on the ecosystems they infest. The Banded mystery snail has been known to clog water intake pipes, spread parasites to waterfowl, and outcompete native snails. They also prey upon bass fish eggs, thus negatively affecting bass populations. Despite these threats, the Banded mystery snail has yet to be listed as invasive in Vermont. At this time, the proliferation of the Banded mystery snail and Chinese mystery snail are unknown. VTDEC will be initiating a community science project in which Vermonters must band together in reporting new occurrences, so that the Banded mystery snail may be granted the invasive title it so warrants.



[banded mysterysnail \(Viviparus georgianus\) - Species Profile \(usgs.gov\)](#)