

*Pomacea spp.*

# Applesnail

Ampullariidae, the apple snail family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Freshwater snail that is usually globular in shape
- Coloration typically includes bands of brown, black, and yellowish-tan
- Patterns are extremely variable
- Albino and gold color variations exist
- Shell height can reach up to 6 inches
- Concave operculum covers shell opening
- Long and tapering tentacles

## Background

- Native to South America; likely introduced from aquarium and aquaculture trade
- Generalist herbivore with a voracious appetite
- Eggs are deep pink to red in color and attached in a solid clutch; evidence suggests they are unpalatable by predators
- Alters natural ecosystem function and biodiversity
- Vector of parasites that can cause meningitis in humans

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