

Achatina fulica

Giant African Snail

Achatinidae, the land snail family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Large land snail with a conical shell
- Shell has 7-9 whorls when fully grown; reddish/brown in color
- Shell is twice as long as it is wide

Background

- Native to coastal area of East Africa; introduced to Hawaii in 1936 and U.S. mainland in 1966
- Imported in the pet trade and accidentally in cargo
- Classified as one of the world's top 100 invasive species
- Herbivorous
- Fast growing with a lifespan of up to 9 years
- Has been classified as a pest in its native range when inhabiting cropland
- Can heavily damage agricultural crops
- Can transmit plant pathogens from one plant to another
- **This snail is a vector for the human disease eosinophilic meningitis; advisable to wash hands after handling**

Photo Credit:

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