

Melanoides tuberculata

Red-lipped Melania

Thiaridae, the thiarids family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Freshwater snail with an elongate and conical shell; adults are $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length
- Usually light brown and marked with rust colored spots
- Spiral grooves in whorls; up to 10 whorls on shell

Background

- Native to Africa and the Middle East; introduced through the aquarium trade
- Can tolerate a wide variety of environmental conditions
- Herbivorous feeder
- Displaces native snail species
- Monopolizes resources such as food
- Rapid growth rate, long-lived, and highly reproductive
- **Potential transmittal of trematode parasites to birds and humans**

Photo Credit:

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