Giant African snail
*Lissachatina fulica*

*Lissachatina fulica*, also known as *Achatina fulica*, is a large snail that belongs in the family *Achatinidae*. This snail species has been considered a significant cause in pest issues around the world. Internationally, it is the most frequently occurring invasive species of snail.

Outside of its native range, this snail thrives in many types of habitat in areas with mild climates. It feeds voraciously and is a vector for plant pathogens, causing severe damage to agricultural crops and native plants. It competes with native snail taxa, is a nuisance pest of urban areas, and spreads human disease. This snail is listed as one of the top 100 invasive species in the world.

What does the Giant African snail look like?

Adult snails are very large with a long, narrow, cone-shaped shell. The shell is usually 50 to 100 millimetres long but can reach up to 200 millimetres. They can vary in colour however they are usually light brown, with alternating brown and cream bands on their upper whorls. All adult snails have both male and female sexual organs.

Eggs are 4.5 to 5.5 millimetres in diameter and are cream to yellow in colour. They are oval in shape and each batch can have between 100 and 400 eggs. In a typical year, every mated adult lays about 1200 eggs.

What is the risk to Australia?

Giant African snail feed on more than 500 species of plants, including legume crops, ornamental plants, vegetables and the bark of large trees such as citrus and pawpaw. They are a serious risk to Australia’s horticultural industries; their ferocious appetite is capable of destroying vegetable crops, fruit trees and Australia’s native eucalypt forests.

How it is spread?

Giant African snails are international hitchhiker pests. They can be carried on imported goods, shipping containers and crates, machinery and motor vehicles. They could also be introduced to Australia at the egg stage in soil or on plant material.

What do I do if I find Giant African snails?

If you suspect you have found Giant African snails, please contact Biosecurity SA or call your Exotic Pest Hotline immediately on 1800 084 881.

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