

# MARINE PEST: New Zealand screwshell *Maoricolpus roseus*



## Key features

- Smooth conical shell
- Generally brown, fading to purple/white with age
- Broader tapering shell with up to 18 whorls
- Up to 9 cm long, usually ~6 cm

## Habitat


- Lying on or partially buried in sand, mud or gravel
- Also found in crevices
- Low intertidal & subtidal up to 130 m depth

## Impacts

- Densely blankets the sea floor with live & dead shells
- Can compete with scallops & commercially farmed shellfish for food

## Known locations

- South-east to north-west Tas; Bass Strait, Wilsons Promontory Vic & north to Botany Bay, NSW, (up to 80 m depth on the continental shelf possibly to 200 m depth)

 Likely to establish



## REPORT IMMEDIATELY OUTSIDE KNOWN LOCATIONS!

1. Note the exact location
2. If possible, collect a sample and freeze in a plastic bag or take a photo
3. See [www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au) for your state contacts



An Australian Government Initiative

## What it is not

### Native species that look similar to the pest

**THIS SPECIES IS  
THREATENED.  
DO NOT COLLECT SAMPLES**

5 cm



#### Native screwshell *Gazameda gunnii*

##### Key Features

- Narrow tapering shell with marked ridges
- Off-white to light brown
- Up to 5 cm long (usually ~3 cm)

##### Habitat

- Up to ~140 m depth

##### Known locations

- Tas

#### Mud whelk *Velacumantus australis*

##### Key Features

- Dirty grey shell with ridges
- Up to 4.5 cm long

##### Habitat

- Soft sediments in shallow, sheltered areas, usually among seagrass
- Estuaries, mangroves, tidal flats

##### Known Locations

- South Qld; NSW; Vic; Tas; SA; WA

#### *Terebra lima*

##### Key Features

- Flaring lip
- Up to 9 cm long

##### Habitat

- Soft sediments including mud & sand
- Subtidal from 35 to 350 m depth

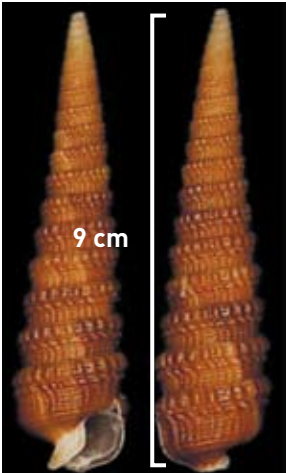
##### Known Locations

- NSW as far south as Trail Bay

4.5 cm



9 cm



## What you can do

- Inspect & clean niche areas & antifoul your vessel regularly
- Clean & dry equipment before transporting & using in a different location

## Learn more

Read the national biofouling management guidelines for your sector.

[www.marinepests.gov.au](http://www.marinepests.gov.au)

#### Photograph credits

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Reverse side: CSIRO Marine and Atmospheric Research (top & bottom left); Tim Glasby, NSW Dept. Primary Industries (right)

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