

MARINE PEST: Black striped mussel *Mytilopsis sallei*



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 for your state contacts

Key features

- Shells unequal in size, one side overlaps the other
- Shell is smooth, small and easily crushed
- Forms dense clusters
- Shell sometimes zig zagged or striped
- Up to 2.5 cm long

Habitat

- Subtropical to tropical
- Estuarine to marine
- Up to a few metres depth
- Hard vertical surfaces (e.g. hulls & pylons)

Impacts

- Fast growing & can displace native species
- Mass fouling of wharf pylons, marinas, vessel water intake systems & marine farms

Known locations

- Not yet in Australia

Likely to establish



An Australian Government Initiative

What it is not

Native species that look similar to the pest



Brachidontes maritimus

Key Features

- Thicker, black/brown shell
- Strong longitudinal ribs along the length of the shell (not radially striped)
- Up to 4.5 cm

Habitat

- Rocky shores & hard substrates
- Tropical marine waters

Known Locations

- Northern coast of Australia (i.e. Qld, WA & NT)



Goose barnacle *Lepas* species

Key Features

- White shells on top of a rubbery brown contractile stalk attached to floating objects

Habitat

- Attached to drift wood and other floating objects

Known Locations

- Cosmopolitan in all tropical and warm temperate oceans

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

Photograph credits

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Reverse side: Richard Willan, Museum & Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (top), courtesy of the Northern Territory Government (bottom)

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