

MARINE PEST: Asian green mussel *Perna viridis*



Key features

- Juvenile shell bright green; older shells dark green to brown
- Smooth exterior with concentric growth lines
- Adults 8–16 cm long

Habitat

- Hard substrates (vessels, artificial structures, wharves, aquaculture equipment, intake pipes, buoys, etc.)
- Low tide mark to 42 m depth, lower estuarine to marine
- Tropical to warm temperate

Impacts

- Fast growing & outcompetes native species, forming dense colonies
- Can clog seawater cooling pipes and intake systems

Known locations

- Not yet in Australia

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 for your state contacts



An Australian Government Initiative

What it is not

Native species that look similar to the pest



Septifer bilocularis

Key Features

- Strong radial ridges
- Variable colour (red, blue or green), internally blue
- Up to 5 cm long

Habitat

- Attached to rocks or debris
- Tropical

Known Locations

- Northern Qld; NT to Albany, WA



Stavelia subdistorta

Key Features

- Dense, concentric ridges
- Brown shell, inside blue/white
- Up to 15 cm long

Habitat

- Attached to rock or debris up to 30 m depth
- Tropical

Known Locations

- Northern Qld to northern WA

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: Graham Wharton, Tropical Reef Shipyard (bottom left); all other images courtesy of the Northern Territory Government

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