

## Channeled Apple Snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*)

**Distribution:** Native to Southern America. Introduced into the U.S.: Arizona, California and Hawaii. *P. canaliculata* records from southeastern US are most likely based on misidentifications of *P. insularum* and *P. haustum* (Rawlings et al., 2007). Commonly introduced by aquarium trade and as a human food source.

**Hosts:** Various aquatic and semiaquatic plants.

**Damage:** Large consumption of plants may alter natural balance of water systems and impact native fauna. Populations can build up quickly and reach pest proportions. *P. canaliculata* is a well known agricultural pest in southeastern Asia (on rice) and Hawaii (on taro).

Channeled apple snails may carry *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* (rat lungworm) nematode causing angiostrongyliasis (eosinophilic meningitis) in humans.

**Field ID:** Adult snails have 45-60 mm wide and 50-75 mm high globular shells. Shells have 5-6 whorls separated by deep sutures (channels) and variable (from dark brown to yellowish-tan) colors.

Bright pink egg clutches (usually 100-400 eggs) are deposited on different objects above the water level.



Photo by G. Arakelian

Adult snails



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Egg clutches



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