

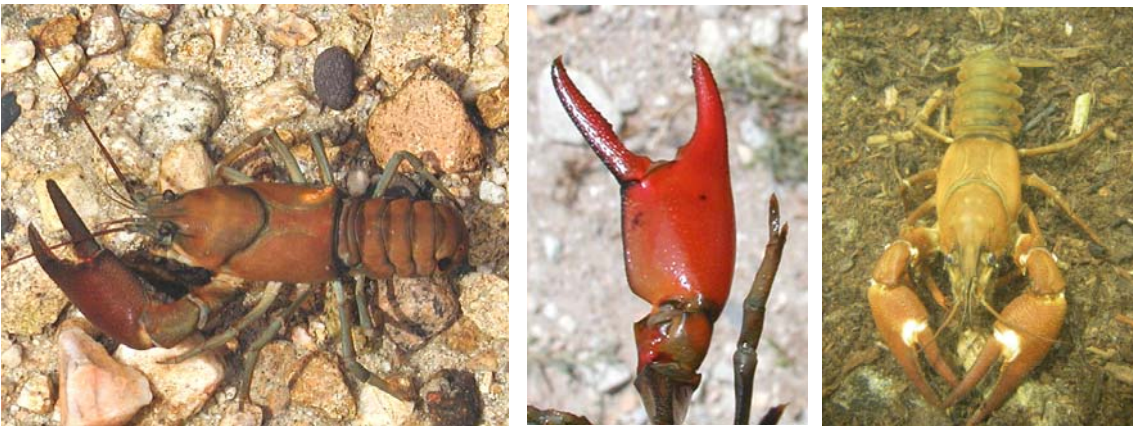
Guide to Crayfish and Chinese Mystery Snail Identification in WA

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July 2009

Signal crayfish (*Pacifasticus leniusculus*)

Washington has only one native crayfish species, the signal crayfish. It is fairly easily identified by its uniform brownish or blue-tinged coloration as adults with a white band at the joint of the claws (chelae). Juveniles of the signal crayfish will likely be drab brown with the white band less noticeable. It is also quite smooth on all its surfaces compared to other crayfish, especially the claw.



Red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*)

The invasive red swamp crayfish will be red as adults with longer, narrower claws than the signal crayfish. Additionally, red swamp crayfish claws will be covered with red, white or black bumps (tubercles). Red swamp juveniles will be brown but with a body shape and pattern similar to adults, including a black “V” pattern on the dorsal side of the tail (abdomen) and a salt and pepper pattern of spotting in black, grey, white or red over the carapace.



Northern crayfish (*Orconectes virilis*)

The northern crayfish is a medium to large crayfish and is distinguished from signal and red swamp crayfish by broad flattened tuberculate (i.e., large tubercles) claws, and a olive-brown body that is dappled with dark brown, and abdominal segments with dark brown medial spots.



Crayfish that do not conform to these descriptions could be other introduced species such as the rusty crayfish *Orconectes rusticus*, the ringed crayfish *Orconectes neglectus*, or the white river crayfish *Procambarus acutus*.



SIGNAL CRAYFISH

RED SWAMP CRAYFISH

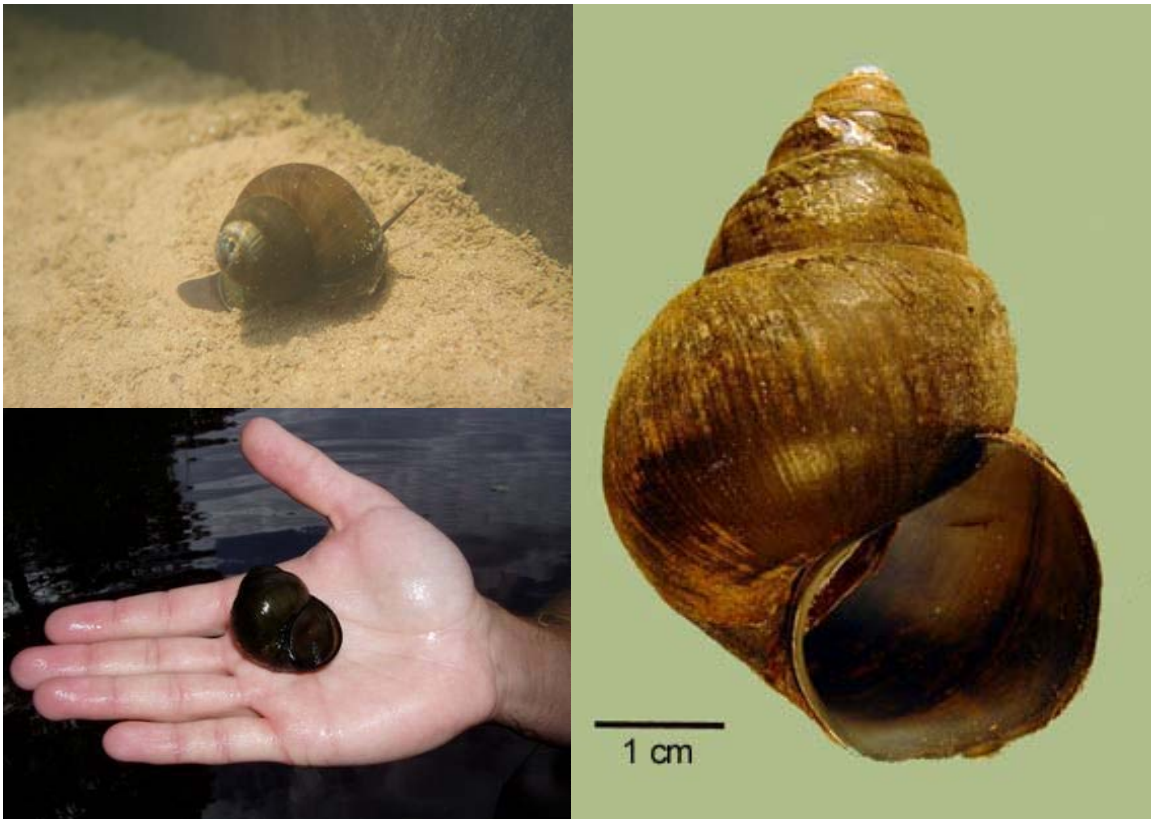
Guide to Chinese Mystery Snail Identification

Chinese mystery snail (*Bellamya chinensis*)

Chinese mystery snail is also called the Japanese mystery snail as well as the Oriental mystery snail. The Chinese mystery snail is native to Asia. One of the main identification features of the mystery snails is their size. Adult snails of some species are over 1 ½ inches in length (snail shell length is measured from the lip of the shell to the tip of the whorl). All mystery snail species will show corrosion (“chipping” and “weathering”) on the top of the whorl of the shell. This is particularly true in soft-water lakes. Mystery snails have opercula (singular operculum) which are “trap doors” that can be closed. This operculum is darkly colored, solid in consistency with concentric rings.

Identifying features Chinese mystery snail (see photos below):

- Adult snails are often over 1.5 inches in length (but are also smaller).
- Operculum (trap door) present
- Typically light to dark olive green
- Uniform coloring on the shell (no banding)



PLEASE PHOTOGRAPH ANY CRAYFISH THAT YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO IDENTIFY.

PLEASE KEEP VOUCHER SPECIMENS OF ANY NON-NATIVE CRAYFISH (deposit in ethanol).

Getting Your Specimens to the University of Washington

Once you have collected some nonnative specimens, I'd like to make arrangements to get them to UW. Please give me a call or e-mail.

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