

Vineyard Snail

Cernuella virgata

**Not known to be
present in Hawai'i**

A quick-spreading pest of grains and vector of parasites and diseases, this invasive snail has a distinctive pale shell sometimes with dark banding.



Photo: L. Poggiani



Photo: Udo Schmidt
Different patterns on shells



Impacts

- Pest to small grains, seeding production, and fodder plants. Contaminates plants and clogs machinery when attempting to harvest. Plants covered in snail slime are unpalatable to livestock.
- Known pests of wheat, barley, peas, alfalfa, beans, clover, and oil seeds, and various horticultural plants. These snails are not host specific and have the potential to harm other plants.
- These pests also vector multiple parasites and diseases that affect mammals and birds.



Identification

- Snail size is 6 to 19 mm. Shell size can be anywhere from 10 - 25 mm in diameter. Shell is a solid, globular helicoid, with a convex spire of 5 to 7 whorls.
- Polymorphic shells are white/creme with or without dark banding. Gathers in groups on plant seed heads and stalks.



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Japanese Beetle

Popillia japonica

Not known to be present in Hawai'i



Vectors/Commodities

- These pests don't travel quickly on their own, but are good at hitchhiking. They have been moved around in military equipment, tiles, and shipping containers, cargo, baggage, and even soil.
- Plants that it has been intercepted on are: citrus, Pittosporum sp., Viburnum sp.



Distribution

- Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia.
- Has been repeatedly introduced to the US mainland and found on the Pacific Northwest and is targeted for eradication.



Best Management Practices

- Visual survey. Check all imported materials for live snails, slime, and poop.
- Places on the property to check for snails: near vegetated areas (look for plants damaged by feeding), under rocks, wood, pots, planters, tires, and rock walls.
- Best time to survey is when it's dark, cool, and wet such as dawn and dusk.
- Report suspected snails to 643pest.org, or by phone to 643-PEST (7378).



Selected References:

- <http://download.ceris.purdue.edu/file/2551>
- <https://idtools.org/id/mollusc/factsheet.php?name=Cernuella%20spp.>

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