

# Golden Apple Snail

## Recognize the problem

It is a serious pest of young rice seedlings because it often eats and thus kills young growing seedlings, leaving large patches without rice. This is particularly a more serious problem in direct-seeded crops in the first 30 days after rice seeding. One single large snail can eat 7-24 rice seedlings per day, so an infestation could potentially wipe out an entire rice crop.

## Background

The golden apple snail, also known as the invasive is a large snail of about 3 to 8 cm in diameter, and it has a yellow to dark brown shell (Fig. 2). The shell is lighter in colour than the darker- smaller native snails. The eggs are bright pink or strawberry pink (Fig. 1 and 2). Eggs turn light pink when about to hatch. This snail can spread rapidly, especially in running water such as irrigation and drainage channels. During dry periods, the snails can stay in the soil for more than 5 months. It emerges when water is present. Each snail can live up to 3 years.

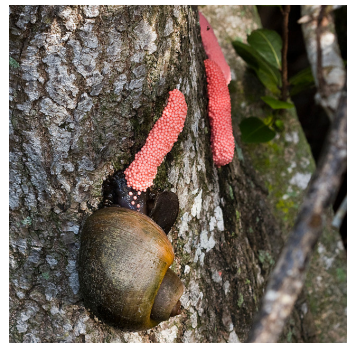
## Management

- Install screens with 5 mm mesh at water inlets. This can minimize the entry of snails into the rice fields and will also facilitate hand-collection.
- Practice good water management by good land leveling for the first two weeks.
- Transplant with older seedlings which are more than 30 days old. Staking with bamboo or other wooden stakes before and after transplanting can be practiced to facilitate egg mass collection.
- Practice crop rotation with a dry land crop and fallow periods is also recommended as control.
- Place toxic plants, such as tobacco leaves and citrus leaves in strips across the field or in canalets.
- Weeds should be eradicated in and near seedbeds and out in the production fields.
- Under the presence of high population, Molluscicides like metaldehyde niclosamide, or Copper sulfate can be used. Follow label recommendation when using pesticides.

Eggs of gold apple snail. (Photo by INIAP, CC BY-ND)



Adult golden apple snail and its eggs. (Photo by Richard Crook, CC BY-NC-ND )



When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > *Pomacea canaliculata* Lamarck

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: Cambodia



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