

Giant African Land Snail (*Achatina fulica*)



African Land Snails are fairly easy to distinguish from other species as they are quite large.

ORIGIN: Native to East Africa (Kenya & Tanzania) and Pacific Islands.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION: Not currently found in the U.S. Frequently intercepted at various international ports coming into the U.S. Natural spread is extremely slow but sped up as the snails can hitch on various plants and cargo transported into and around the country. Though now illegal these snails can also be found in captivity exotic pet stores and classroom or museum displays.

IDENTIFICATION: Giant African Land Snails typically get around 3 inches tall and 8 inches long. Their shells form a conical shape and may coil in either direction. Their colors are typically in the brown tones but may vary according to their diets. They are active at night and spend their days burrowed underground.

HABITAT / HOST: Mostly tropic and humid regions, from forested to agricultural areas. Preferred foods quite variable, mostly cultivated crops.

IMPORTANCE: Their escape and establishment into natural and agricultural areas could be devastating. They also may carry a parasite that can be transmitted to people. Illegal to sell, possess, or transport in the United States.

MANAGEMENT: Captured, and suspected populations of, snails should be reported to authorities in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY

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