

Freshwater gold clam

High-risk aquatic animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- Highly invasive species owing to its rapid growth rate.
- A long-distance hitchhiker in ballast water and through the aquarium trade.
- Can displace native clams and diminish water quality.
- Can block plumbing, heat exchangers and other water infrastructure.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

The freshwater gold clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) is a highly invasive species owing to its rapid growth rate, short life span and high reproductive rate, combined with an ability to broadcast its larvae over a broad area using water flows in rivers. It is a long-distance hitchhiker in ballast water and through the aquarium trade.

The inflated, round to triangular shell is yellowish brown to black with evenly spaced ridges. It can grow to a shell length of 50–65 mm, although it is usually less than 25 mm.

Biosecurity risk

The freshwater gold clam is a freshwater invasive clam that has been recently detected at Colleges Crossing, and at a limited number of other sites along the Brisbane River. It has not been positively identified in Australia prior to the detection in the Brisbane River.

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What should I do?

If you think you have seen a freshwater gold clam, report it immediately to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Please take reasonable and practical measures to prevent freshwater gold clams from spreading.

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.

