

## Faucet Snail (*Bithynia tentaculata*)

Locations in Beltrami County

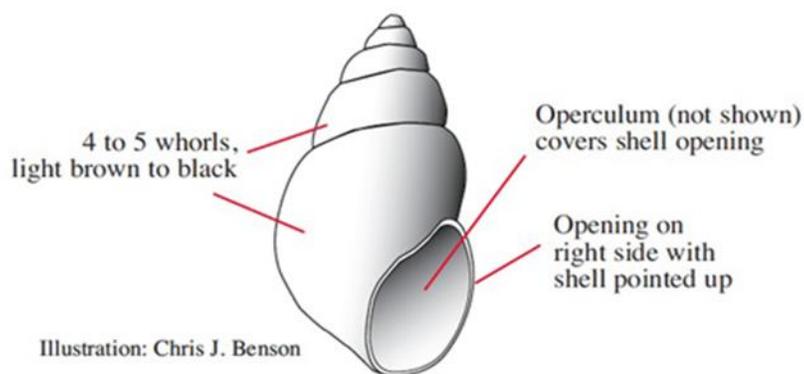
Waterbody name	Year listed as infested	Year species was first confirmed, or connected water body	DOW number
Blackduck	2018	2018	04-0069

### What are faucet snails?

Faucet snail is a European native that arrived in the Great Lakes in the 1870's. It was probably transported unintentionally with solid ballast of large transport ships or with vegetation used in packing crates. The first population documented in Minnesota was in Lake Winnibigoshish in 2008.

### How to identify faucet snails?

Adult faucet snails can grow to ½ inch in length, but are generally smaller. They are pale brown with 4-5 whorls, and the opening is on the right when the shell is pointed up. They have an operculum (hard "door" to the opening) that can close the opening.



If you suspect you have found a new infestation of faucet snails, or any other invasive species, note the exact location, take a photo or keep the specimen, and contact Beltrami County's AIS Lake Technician.



### Why are faucet snails a problem?

The snail is an intermediate host for three intestinal trematodes, or flukes. These parasites are the cause of tens of thousands of deaths of diving ducks in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The waterfowl eat the snails and then the parasites attack the internal organs and cause lesions and hemorrhaging. Infected birds appear lethargic and have difficulty diving and flying before eventually dying. Faucet snails also compete with native snails and may clog water intake pipes and other submerged equipment. Faucet snails are not known to be a host for the swimmers itch fluke.

### How do faucet snails spread?

They can spread by attaching to aquatic plants, boats, anchors, decoy anchors, bait harvesting nets, and other recreational gear and equipment placed in the water. They can survive out of the water for

prolonged periods. These are one of the few invasive species that may have the ability to be spread by waterfowl, but this spread is known to be slower than by people moving equipment infested with AIS.