



ORNAMENTAL AQUATIC TRADE ASSOCIATION LTD

"The voice of the ornamental fish industry"

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OATA RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE TRADE IN MOLLUSCS FOR USE IN OUTDOOR PONDS

OATA is recommending the UK industry source five commonly traded snails and mussels from UK sources only, particularly if they are to be sold for outdoor ponds/gardens.

OATA has concerns that importing five commonly traded species of snails/mussels, most of which we believe are of UK origin, may present a biosecurity risk in the UK. All five are European natives, present in all, or parts of the UK, and the continent. They are:

- *Planorbis corneus/Planorbarius corneus* (Ramshorn snail).
Native to the UK mainland and widely introduced in Northern Ireland.
- *Anodonta cygnea* (Swan mussel).
Native to the UK.
- *Lymnaea stagnalis* (Great pond snail).
Native to the UK.
- *Viviparus viviparus* (River snail, sometimes sold as Trapdoor snail).
Native to England & Wales but not to Northern Ireland or Scotland.
- *Unio pictorum / Uniopictorum uniopictorum* (Painter's mussel).
Native to England & Wales but not to Northern Ireland or Scotland.

Although not controlled by current legislation, there are risks when importing these species from sources outside the UK so OATA is asking the industry to act responsibly and try to source only UK bred species. The biosecurity risk of importing these species include:

- As with fish, they could be carrying parasites and diseases not present in the UK, or travelling in water with invasive hitch-hikers which could be passed on to native populations if then introduced in UK ponds.
- Snails are potentially capable of making their way out of ponds and gardens. They may also be moved by birds.
- They may technically be the same species, but imported varieties are likely to have some genetic differences which could impact on the genetic make-up of UK native species.

Also, as outlined above, not all varieties are native across the whole of the UK. Although these species are not invasive, OATA believes we should help prevent the escape of non-native species into the wild and recommend that our members:

- Do not source molluscs intended for use in outdoor ponds from outside of the UK. It is possible to source native varieties from UK businesses.
- As with plants and fish intended for tropical aquaria, do not sell aquarium snail species for use in outdoor ponds. For example, *Bellamya chinensis/Cipangopaludina chinensis/Viviparus malleatus* (Chinese Mystery Snail/Japanese Trapdoor Snail).
- Advise your customers of the native ranges of *Viviparus viviparus* and *Unio pictorum/Uniopictorum uniopictorum*.
- Include molluscs in your "Do not release"/"Keep It In" messaging to your customers.

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