Chinese Mystery Snail



It is practically impossible to completely eradicate Chinese mystery snails once they are established in a lake, so management focuses on manual removal and preventing their spread. [1, 2]

Manual Removal and Disposal

- **Handpick adults:** Manually collect and remove snails that wash up on the shore or are visible in shallow water. [1, 2]
- **Wear gloves:** Always protect your hands with gloves when handling these snails because they can carry harmful parasites. Most users on Reddit agree that you should avoid touching your face and wash your hands thoroughly after handling them. [1, 2, 3]
- **Freeze and trash:** Place collected snails in a sealed plastic bag and put them in a freezer for 24 hours to kill them before throwing them in the garbage. Alternatively, crush them on land and dispose of them in the trash or bury them deep in a garden as fertilizer. [1, 2]

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- On June 6, 2023, we set 18 funnel traps to sample crayfishes. To allow capture of larger crayfishes, we used crayfish traps with funnel openings of 5-cm diameter (Cabela's, Sidney, NE; https://www.cabelas.com/shop/en/bass-pro-shopscrawfish-trap) instead of 2.5 cm, as is typical of most commercially available minnow traps (Stuechelli 1991; Fig. 1). We baited each trap with a can of moist cat food. We set traps about 10 m from the shoreline at 0.5–1.5 m depth and tied them with rope in arrays of three traps each. Substrate in the vicinity of traps consisted mainly of mud, sand, cobble, and patches of submerged aquatic vegetation (*Elodia* sp.). We deployed the traps for 48 hours and then identified and counted snails and crayfishes captured in each trap.

- We deployed the same 18 traps at the same site on September 12, 2023. We baited nine of the traps with canned cat food and left the other nine traps unbaited. We deployed baited and unbaited traps in an alternating fashion within a trap line. After 24 hours, we identified and counted snails in each trap. We did not collect data on crayfishes captured during our second trapping effort.

- We expressed capture rates in each trap as catch per unit effort (CPUE), calculated as the number of CMS/number of trap nights. We performed statistical analyses with the program R (R Core Team 2021) using the native "stats" package. Because data were non-normally distributed, we used a Mann-Whitney *U*-test to evaluate if the number of snails captured differed significantly between baited and unbaited traps (α = 0.0