

Mystery Snails

Pomacea cuprinis



Maximum Size

Mystery snails grow to be the size of a golf ball, making them one of the largest snails on earth

Water Quality

Strictly tropical:

- Temperature: 20°C—28°C.
- pH: 6.5—7.5
- General Hardness: 150—300 ppm.

Feeding

Mystery Snails will not eat your aquarium plants. They are terrific scavengers, and will eat decomposing plant leaves and any type of fish food. They will help to keep your tanks clean and free of detritus.

Compatibility

They will mix with most tropical fish, but large cichlids and clown loach will kill them.

Colour and Varieties

They are available in a lovely rich golden yellow and a blackish brown or tan form. Feeding foods rich in Beta-carotene will help intensify their colour.

Sexing and Breeding

Unlike other snails, Mystery Snails are not hermaphrodites—there are male and female individuals within the species. Males have a penile sheath within the shell which houses the male reproductive organ, although this can be hard to distinguish in small snails. For best breeding results, choose at least 6 snails.

They lay their pink or white eggs in hard shelled clusters just above the water line. Depending on temperature and humidity, young snails hatch in a week or so, fall into the water and crawl away.

General Information

Mystery Snails are moderately amphibious, enabling them to lay their eggs above the water line. They have an “operculum” which they use to close their shell, enabling them to survive out of water for some time. Snails are sensitive to medications containing copper or insecticides. Take care to remove them from tanks before treating them with any chemicals containing these substances.

As they are sensitive to poor water conditions, they can be used as an indicator of poor water quality—as the water conditions deteriorate they will move to the water surface.

Mystery snails add interest and variety to the tropical aquarium, with the added benefit of helping to keep it clean!