



# Japanese carpet shell

REPUBLIC OF THE  
MARSHALL ISLANDS

*Ruditapes philippinarum* (A. Adams & Reeve, 1850)

## KEY FEATURES



- Adult shell length is commonly 2.5 to 5.7 cm, up to a max of 8 cm
- Bivalve with a solid, broadly oval shell, externally sculptured with radiating ribs and concentric grooves, the latter becoming deeper towards posterior and anterior regions making the shell surface criss-crossed
- External colour white to yellow or brown, often with radiating darker bands or dark blotches, interior white with an orange tint
- Intertidal to shallow sub-littoral species but can be found on the higher shore under certain tidal conditions
- Shallow burrower, surviving in muddy and sandy sediments around 4 cm below the surface, tolerant of a wide range of salinities, from 7.5 to 40

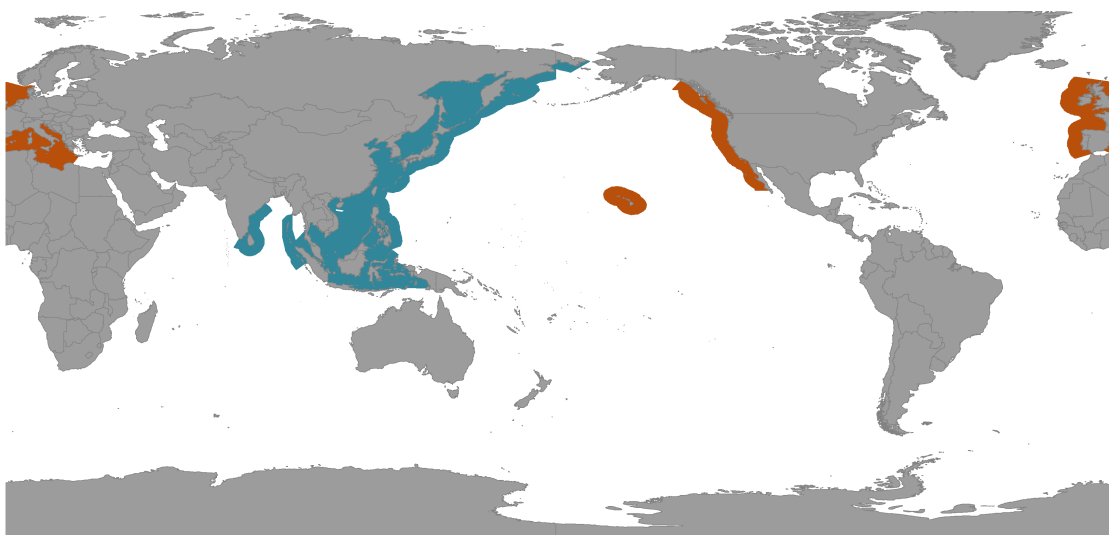
## PATHWAY

✓ ballast water

✓ biofouling

✓ aquaculture transfer

Native  
Cryptogenic  
Non-indigenous





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## IMPACTS



### Environmental impacts

Can alter habitats due to high growth rates and densities. Contributes significantly to benthic production, alters nutrient dynamics and zooplankton abundance. Competes with many native bivalves and has replaced them in some places in Europe. Other organisms accompany introduction of *R. philippinarum* as foulers or parasites



### Human health impacts

None known



### Social & cultural impacts

None known



### Economic impacts

Introductions have generally been positive for local aquaculture, but may cause decline of already established local fisheries through competition

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- When cultivated, fertilised eggs take 24 hours at 25°C to develop into larvae, remaining as larvae up to 8 days
- Considered to be hardier, faster growing and with higher fecundity than many native clams

## DISTRIBUTION

**Not present in the Republic of the Marshall Islands**

**Native range** China, Japan, Korea, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia

**Non-indigenous range** Hawai'i, Eastern Pacific, Canada, Italy, France, Sardinia, Romania, Spain, UK, Norway, Turkey

## CREDITS AND REFERENCES (click reference for more information)

**Images** Top and bottom: Hyun-tae Kim ([CC BY 4.0](#))

**References** [Humphreys et al. \(2007\)](#), [Alonso Suarez and Raven \(2020\)](#)