



# Black striped mussel

*Mytilopsis sallei* (Récluz, 1849)

REPUBLIC OF THE  
MARSHALL ISLANDS

## KEY FEATURES



- Mussel with valves of slightly unequal size, left valve smaller than the right, about 30–35 mm total length, valves covered by a thin pale brown periostracum
- Some individuals may have light to dark grey concentric markings that have given rise to the name "black striped mussel" but the shell is mostly dirty white
- Mussel flesh light orange to pale yellow, mantle margins light brown
- Often found in large colonies, forming mats attached to hard substrata in the intertidal or subtidal estuarine conditions; densities of up to 830 individuals per 1 m<sup>2</sup> have been reported

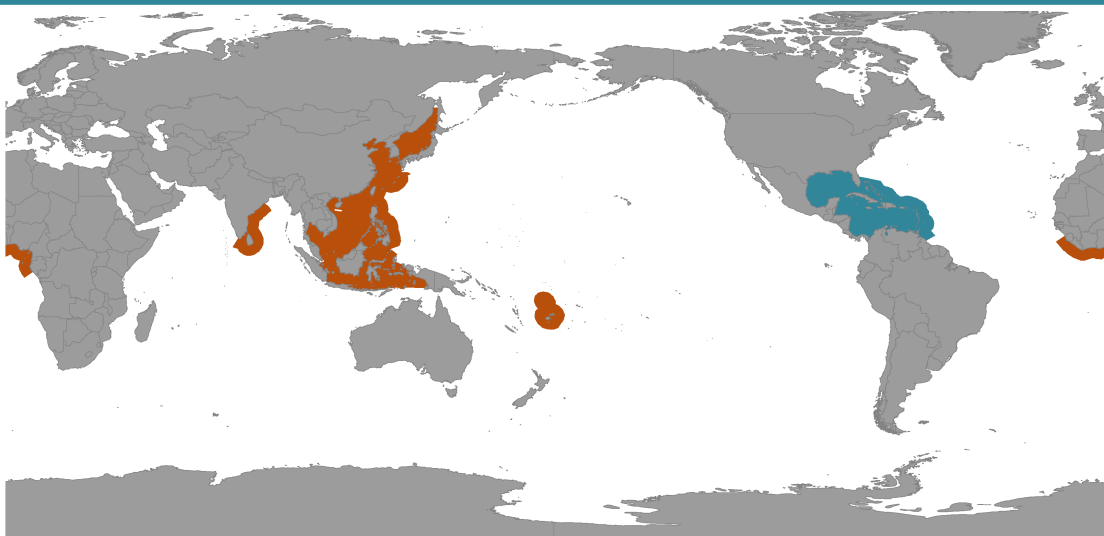
## PATHWAY

✓ ballast water

✓ biofouling

✓ aquaculture transfer

Native  
Cryptogenic  
Non-indigenous





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## IMPACTS



Environmental  
impacts

Responsible for massive fouling on wharves and marinas, seawater systems (pumping stations, vessel ballast, cooling systems) and marine farms. In preferred habitats, forms dense monospecific groups that exclude most other species, leading to a substantial reduction in biodiversity in infected areas



Human health  
impacts

None known



Social & cultural  
impacts

None known



Economic  
impacts

Known as a nuisance fouler that could have economic effects on marine farms and vessel maintenance

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Wide tolerance for temperature (10–35°C) and salinity (0–35)
- Characterized by rapid growth, high reproductive capacity, early maturity
- Within a month of settlement, these broadcast spawners can release up to 50,000 eggs which are then fertilised by sperm in the water column
- Larval stages short; after fertilisation, settlement can occur within 10 days

## DISTRIBUTION

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

**Native range**

Caribbean islands, Bay of Mexico

**Non-indigenous range**

West Africa, Eastern Pacific, Fiji, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, China, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, India

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

**Images**

Top: from [He et al. \(2019\)](#) (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0), middle and bottom: from [Tan and Tay \(2020\)](#)

**References**

[He et al. \(2019\)](#), [Tan and Tay \(2020\)](#), [He et al. \(2016\)](#), [Wells \(2019\)](#)