

# Veined rapa whelk

*Rapana venosa* (Valenciennes, 1846)

## KEY FEATURES



- Heavy-shelled sea snail with a large body whorl and short spire, up to 17 cm long
- Aperture oval and lined on its outer edge with fine teeth
- Shell exterior is heavily sculpted with longitudinal ribs, forming blunt knobs at the shoulder of the body whorl
- Finer growth lines are crossed by numerous spiral ribs, which terminate as the teeth on the lip of the aperture
- Shell of older specimens often eroded
- External part of shell rough, light grey mottled with brown, with dark-brown dashes on the spiral ribs
- Interior ranges from off-white to yellow or orange, with a smooth, pearly texture

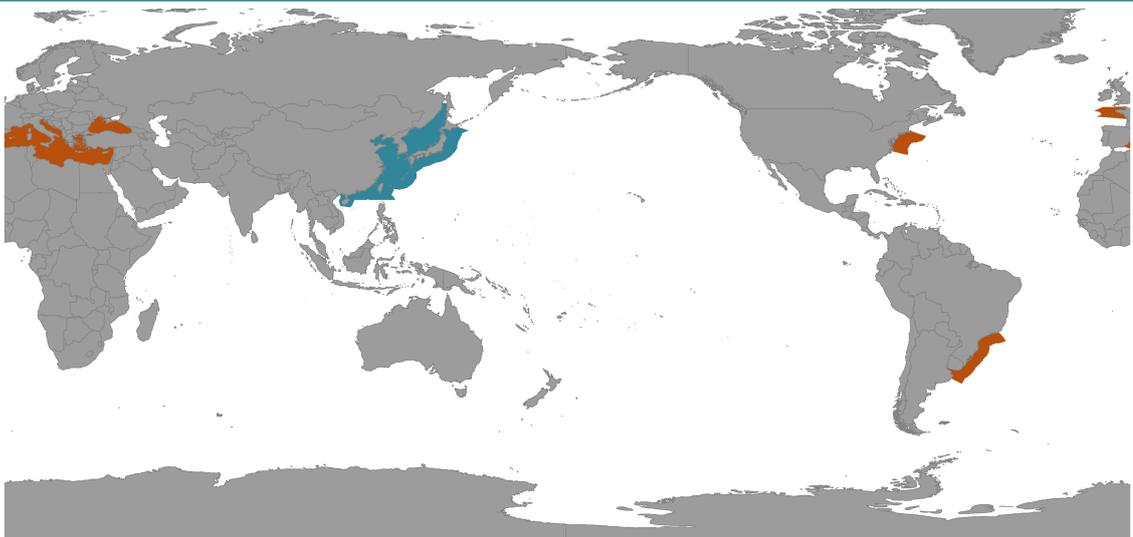
## PATHWAY

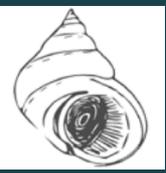
✓ ballast water

✓ biofouling

✓ aquaculture transfer

Native  
 Cryptogenic  
 Non-indigenous





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## IMPACTS



**Environmental impacts**

Flexible predator adapts to locally available prey. Mussels are preferred food, but will also eat cockles, barnacles, as well as dead fish and crabs. Creates new ecological niches by preying on specific species, can alter shellfish populations, and competes with predatory fish and rays for food, leading to changes in reef fish populations



**Human health impacts**

None known



**Social & cultural impacts**

None known



**Economic impacts**

Invasion in Chesapeake Bay is expected to have economic impacts on shellfisheries because of its role as an efficient predator of bivalves; populations of Hard Clams are expected to be most affected. Predominant predator of several mussel species in the Rio de La Plata estuary between Argentina and Uruguay

## ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- Adults favour sandy subtidal down to 40 m depth and are nocturnal, spending most of the day buried in soft sediment
- In invaded areas spawning occurs in temperatures between 19 to 25°C Eggs are deposited onto hard substrate, hatching at 12–17 days, larvae are planktonic for another 14–17 days and have high salinity tolerance, as much as 15
- Growth is rapid (20 to 40 mm) in year 1, species matures in its second year

## DISTRIBUTION

## NOT PRESENT IN TUVALU

**Native range** Northwest Pacific from Russia to the Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea and East China Sea

**Non-indigenous range** Argentina, Chesapeake Bay, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Spain, UK

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

**Images** Top: Didier Descouens ([CC BY-SA 4.0](#)), bottom: Holger Krisp ([CC BY-SA 3.0](#)).

**References** [Mann et al. \(2006\)](#), [ICES \(2004\)](#), [Mann and Harding \(2002\)](#), [Gilberto et al. \(2006\)](#)