

Sent: Tuesday, November 07, 2006 4:05 PM
Subject: Oregon Terrestrial Exotic Mollusk Survey

From: Mark.E.Hitchcox@aphis.usda.gov

Greetings.

Below is a recent report summarizing recent detections of the exotic snail *Candidula intersecta* in Oregon. This snail may pose a risk to the production of certain agricultural crops in Oregon.

So far, the snail's distribution seems to be limited, but ongoing survey and public outreach will help to clarify this.

Please distribute the attached announcement to your readers. Thanks!

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Detection of *Candidula intersecta*, Exotic Terrestrial Snail

Oregon Exotic Mollusk Survey

USDA - Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service - Plant Protection and Quarantine, Portland, Oregon

Update Nov 6, 2006

Background: The Oregon Exotic Mollusk Survey (ORMS) is conducted by the USDA-APHIS-PPQ in collaboration with Customs & Border Protection, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, and Oregon State University Cooperative Extension.

Many different species of exotic snails are frequently intercepted through routine cargo inspection of maritime containers arriving at the Port of Portland. Many of the intercepted species are significant crop pests in other areas of the world. The ORMS project attempts to detect and control new infestations of exotic mollusk pests before their populations become widespread in the Oregon landscape.

To date, survey has been conducted at 75 sites, representing 15 Oregon counties (Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington, Yamhill counties). Surveyed sites have included marine ports, rail yards, tile importers and distributors, nurseries, private residential and public lands. In addition, public outreach efforts have generated specimen submissions from homeowners and gardeners.

Survey Results: Several specimens of the exotic snail *Candidula intersecta* have recently been collected from three sites in Oregon:

Coos Bay, Frankport, and Port Orford. Morphological identification has been confirmed by the USDA regional and national malacologists. All three positive sites are located on the southern Oregon coast at active and historical port sites. Investigations of historic port sites suggest that this species has been established for several years. The density and range of the infestations at each site is currently unknown.

Preliminary estimates of the infested area at Port Orford total at least 8.5 acres.

Pest Information: *Candidula intersecta*, commonly known as the wrinkled dune snail, is considered by the USDA to be a potential agricultural pest. This snail is commonly intercepted at US ports of entry on shipping containers imported from other countries. Based on historical observations in other regions of the world, this snail may exhibit behaviors that can cause agricultural impacts in the state of Oregon.

In Europe, *Candidula intersecta* is a recognized pest of apples, pears,

plums and peaches, damaging fruit while still on the tree, which allows fungal attack and fruit rot. This snail is also reported to cause feeding damage to seeds, seedlings and young plants of spring grain.

When populations reach high numbers, this species may exhibit a "massing behavior" where the snails climb and enter a dormant state on plants or other structures. This massing behavior has been reported to contaminate grain fields during harvest, resulting in downgraded quality and loss of marketability.

Next Steps: Follow-up delimitation survey is being conducted to provide further information. In addition, detection survey is being expanded to include additional historical port sites. It is not currently known if this snail is established in Oregon's grass seed or grain producing areas. No economic impact associated with this pest has been reported in Oregon. No quarantine or control activities have been initiated.

The USDA New Pest Advisory Group is reviewing the known background information and preparing a pest risk assessment for this species.

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