Assassin snails

Assassin snails (*Anentome helena*)

- Assassin snails are not on the live import list, they cannot be imported into Australia or traded within Australia – this is an offence under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*.
- Assassin snails will prey upon native mollusc species if released into the Australian environment.
- There are no native carnivorous freshwater snails in Australia – introduction of this species would cause major harm to native worms and other snails in our freshwater environments.
- Early detection helps protect Queensland's agricultural industries and natural environment.

Description

Assassin snails are found in the lower reaches of freshwater areas of rivers on sand and mud. Predator and scavenger, feeding on worms, gastropods and carrion. Animal with separate sexes. The female lays several clear egg capsules which are roughly square in shape. Each egg capsule contains a single egg. The egg capsules are generally laid on solid surfaces and commonly at the base of plants.

Pest risk

This is the only known freshwater nassariid. It could become a serious pest by preying on native molluscs if introduced into natural environments in Australia. There are no native carnivorous freshwater gastropods present in Australia, and such an introduction would therefore be of major concern.

It is an offence to import or trade assassin snails in Australia under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. These snails must not be sold or traded on Gumtree, Ebay, Facebook or any marketplace.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen assassin snails, report it to Biosecurity Queensland immediately on 13 25 23. Until an authorised officer contacts you, take reasonable and practical steps to prevent assassin snails from spreading.

Further information

Further information is available from your local government office, or by contacting Biosecurity Queensland on **13 25 23** or visit our website at **biosecurity.qld.gov.au**.

Queensland Government