

ADVERTISEMENT

Invasive snails deadly to humans are invading the US: North Carolina sounds alarm on golf ball-sized species that carries rat lungworm

The Apple Snail's pink masses of eggs can cause skin and eye rashes if touched
Wildlife authorities are asking the public to help track and eradicate the snail
READ MORE: Toxic, 15-inch Hammerhead worms have invaded Washington DC

By [MATTHEW PHELAN FOR DAILYMAIL.COM](#)

PUBLISHED: 12:27 EDT, 4 October 2023 | **UPDATED:** 17:35 EDT, 4 October 2023

An invasive snail is invading the US — and wildlife officials warn it carries a parasite that can infect the brain, causing meningitis which can lead to death.

North Carolina warned residents Monday that the invasive snail species — which can be fatal to humans and devastating to river life — has been positively identified along the state's Lumber River.

The Apple Snail, native to South America, has been spotted along the Lumber River in the state's south-central region.

1.1k
shares

33
[View comments](#)

Humans are urged to freeze or **crush the snails** but not handle them or their bright pink masses of eggs, which are filled with toxins that can cause skin and eye rashes.

While the Apple Snail has already invaded Europe, **Asia** and other US states, like **Hawaii**, this week's sightings are the first ever recorded in North Carolina.

It joins the toxic, mucus-covered Hammerhead worm on the list of slimy invasives that **have spread to the US eastern seaboard** in recent years.



© North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

North Carolina wildlife authorities warned residents Monday that an invasive snail species — which can be fatal to humans and devastating to river life — has been positively ID'd along the state's Lumber River. The Apple Snail is known to carry rat lungworm, which can kill humans



+4
View gallery

- spiderlings floating in the...
- Is Maryland a UFO hotspot? Locals have reported nearly 2,000 bizarre sightings in the sky since 1995
- Scientists find at least SIX toxins like arsenic and uranium in systems used by 95% of the US population
- Australian surfers reveal their 'Seabins' have sucked up more than 7,300 pounds of litter and microplastics...
- Dogs at high risk of deadly Apple Snail invading the US because they carry rat lungworm parasites - and the...
- Ring is offering a \$1 million reward for video footage of aliens captured using its doorbell camera
- Why does the Millennium Bridge wobble? Scientists explain the unusual phenomenon - as London's famous...
- Astronaut on board the International Space Station reveals how she makes her morning coffee in zero gravity
- Mont Blanc is SHRINKING: Mountain has lost 7.28ft in height over the last two years as rising temperatures...
- Could your EV kidnap YOU? As a terrified motorist, 53, reveals his new electric car 'began driving itself',...

ORE HEADLINES

P STORIES

- EXCLUSIVE Kanye** **fructs** 'wife' Bianca **...sori** to 'NEVER speak', insiders claim - and has even 'given her a list of rules to live by' Dictates her lifestyle
- ▶ **Travis Kelce's mom Donna** seemingly **SHADES Taylor Swift** as she offers a **VERY** lukewarm account of what it was like to meet the popstar 'It was okay', she said
- ▶ **This blonde bombshell** just shared a childhood photo with her younger sister - who is also famous - to wish her a happy 40th birthday. **Who are they?** They're celebrity sisters
- ▶ **I'm a plastic surgeon** - here are the four biggest cosmetic bangs for your buck that will transform your appearance without pricey surgery
- ▶ **Britney Spears FLEES** to private island in French Polynesia following criticism from dancing with knives... after dad is hospitalized Sister cut from DWTS
- ▶ **All grown up!** British royals' children are reimagined as adults in AI-generated portraits - and fans say Charlotte looks just like Diana Kate and William's kids

According to Hawaii's Invasive Species Council, which has dealt with Apple Snail invasions in the Pacific, the invasive species has previously been responsible for '100-percent crop loss' in rice fields across certain heavily infested areas of the Philippines

ADVERTISEMENT

TRENDING



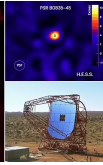
Invasive Apple Snails pose threat to dog's nervous systems, vets warn

392 viewing now



Earth hit by blast so powerful that scientists can't explain it

50.9k viewing now



See Earth's hotspots from SPACE in incredible satellite images

3.5k viewing now

In addition to rat lungworm (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*), Apple Snails are known to be carriers of harmful parasites like blood flukes (*Schistosoma spp.*) and intestinal flukes (*Echinostoma ilocanum*)

The **US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC) warns that a blood fluke infection, or schistosomiasis, 'can persist for years' if not properly treated.

If transmitted from snail to human, the parasite can cause severe abdominal pain, an enlarged liver, blood in the stool or urine, and difficulty urinating.

But beyond these threats to human health, North Carolina's Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) also warned that the Apple Snail posed risks to local farming and native habitats.

'Their grazing habits can cause damage to crops such as rice, as well as to wild native plants used by many aquatic species,' according to the commission's posting to its [aquatic nuisance species page](#).

► **Revealed: Supercar convoy 'jumped red lights and breached traffic regulations' before fatal crash that saw couple burn to death - as billionaire Lamborghini dri...**



► **'You scared him!' Fitness influencer becomes a viral sensation after filming self furiously hitting down male nger who shamed for filming a kout ...**



► **Jersey cop led to help Bob Merendez's wife after Mercedes crash despite being retired and convinced patrolman on duty to let her go without a sobriety te...**



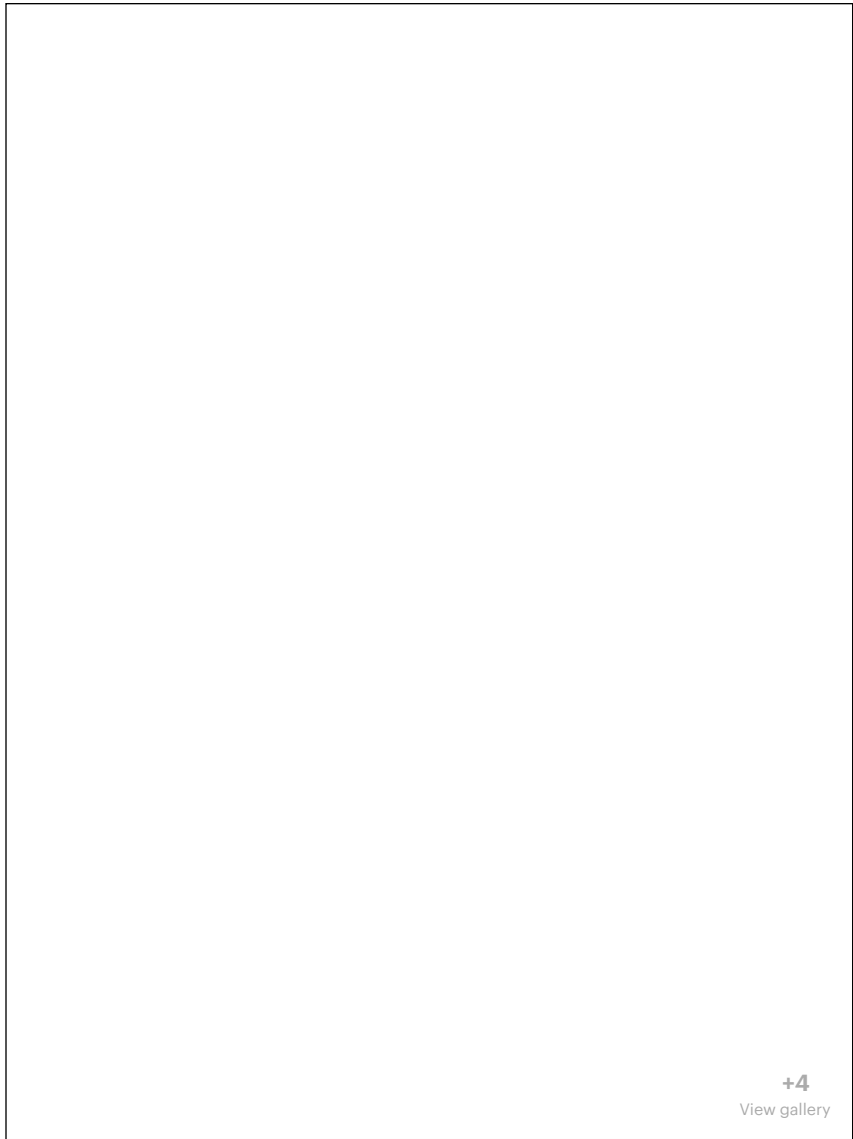
► **Riley Keough is named the face of Chanel for spring 2024... after mending ties with grandmother Priscilla Presley following mom Lisa's death Granddaughter of Elvis**



► **Stunning yacht that was gifted to Grace Kelly by Aristotle Onassis for honeymoon with Prince Rainier III undergoes incredible renovation It sets sail once again**



ADVERTISEMENT



+4
View gallery

Even casual contact can be risky, as wildlife authorities warned that a toxin found in the snail's bright pink masses of eggs can cause skin and eye rashes if touched. The state is asking that citizens help track and kill Apple Snails using NC's Aquatic Nuisance Species Reporting Tool

▶ **EXCLUSIVE:** Brooklyn stabbing suspect Brian Dowling, 18, appears in court after being charged with murder of Ryan Thoresen Carson



▶ Buc-ee's co-founder's son is arrested on suspicion of secretly recording dozens of guests having SEX, showering, using the toilet and undressing at his father's...



▶ We don't care if New York's full Eric, we want to be a part of it! Inside Mexican shelter where migrants still plan a new life in the Big Apple and LAUGH at Ada...



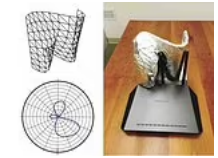
▶ AOC demands Biden 'takes responsibility and reverse' border wall construction - as president U-turns and starts deporting thousands of Venezuelans to comb...



▶ A dog trainer - 's what your breed up says about your personality



▶ Dartmouth researchers reveal why your Wi-Fi router should be wrapped in aluminum foil



▶ Kansas girl, 5, is raped and murdered at homeless campsite after her own MOTHER kicked her out of 'deplorable' home: Police arrest man, 25, who 'knew the girl'



▶ Idaho elk hunter shoots and kills a female grizzly bear after it charged at him in 'surprise' attack near Henrys Lake State Park

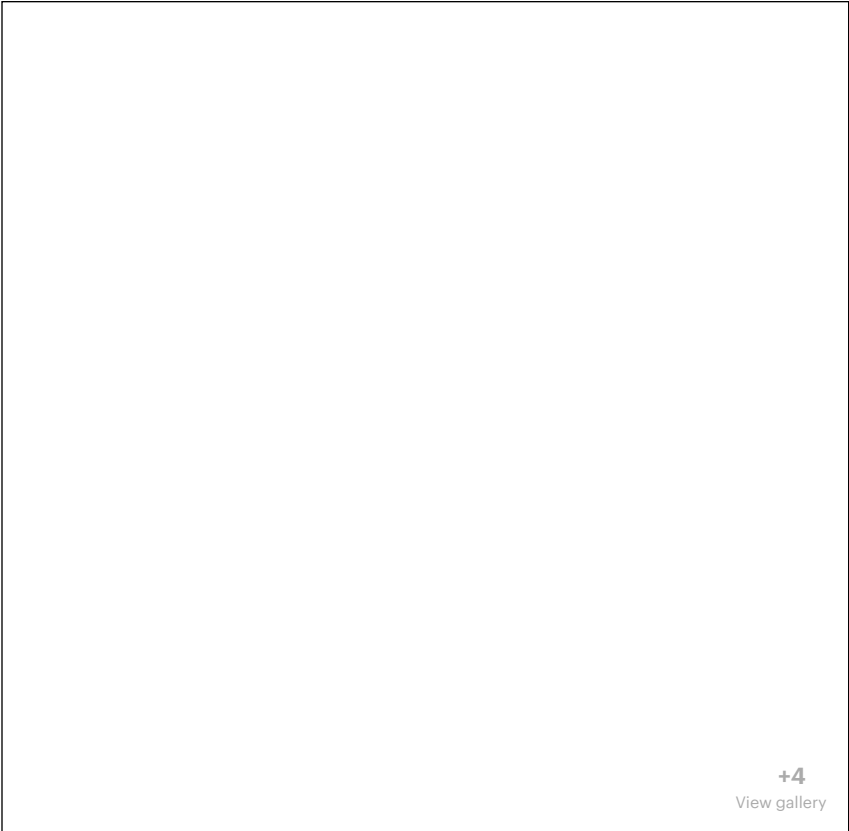


▶ Missouri teacher Brianna Coppage, 28, placed on leave after school got wind of her OnlyFans page has now resigned to focus full-time on porn - as her bio proudl...



▶ 1993 news clip showing skeptical Burger King customers freaking out over CREDIT CARD payments takes the internet by storm - as viewers are left in hysterics by ...





+4
View gallery

North Carolina wildlife authorities said that the Apple Snail's egg masses can be destroyed by 'crushing and scraping them off into the water' using any nearby implement such as a stick, a rock or a boat paddle. State officials urged that citizens should make sure the eggs sink

'They have even been observed feeding on amphibian eggs,' wildlife authorities said.

Wildlife experts in Hawaii have also warned that, if left unchecked, the Apple Snail can decimate local agricultural economies.

'In the Philippines, they became the top pest in rice fields,' **Hawaii's Invasive Species Council** reported, 'there has been 100-percent crop loss in heavily infested areas.'

Wildlife managers in North Carolina hope that the state's residents, particularly in Lumberton and the surrounding Robeson County where the snails were sighted, will aid in expelling the invasive species.

Apple Snails are typically seen in rounded, yellowish to dark brown shells.

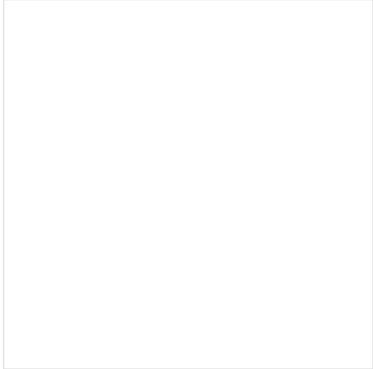
While they can grow to the size of an apple, the creatures are typically closer to the size of a golf ball.

Authorities said that if residents see a suspected Apple Snail or a mass of vividly pink eggs, the first step is to photograph and record the location in a submission to NCWRC's **Aquatic Nuisance Species Reporting Tool**.

'After documenting the location, egg masses can be destroyed [by] crushing and scraping them off into the water,' the state's wildlife authorities said, 'with any

READ MORE: Murder hornet 'relative' is invading the US

Fact-box text



The yellow-legged hornet, native to South Asia, was identified in Georgia, where officials are urging residents to look for the invasive species that could 'potentially threaten' honey production, native species, farms and human lives.

implement such as a stick or a boat paddle.'

NCWRC's experts also advise 'making sure the eggs sink,' while avoiding contact with bare skin to avoid possible rashes from the eggs' toxins.

'Adult snails,' they said, 'can be destroyed by crushing or freezing.'



- Asia
- North Carolina
- Hawaii

ADVERTISEMENT

Share or comment on this article: Invasive snails deadly to humans are invading the US: North Carolina sounds alarm on golf ball-sized species that carries rat lungworm

1.1k
shares

Add comment

Sponsored

Recommended by Outbrain



home

