

EUROPEAN FAUCET SNAIL (*Bithynia tentaculata*)

**Oneida Lake Status:
Common**



- Discovered in Oneida Lake around 1915
- Feeds on algae
- Commonly known as the faucet snail or mud bithynia

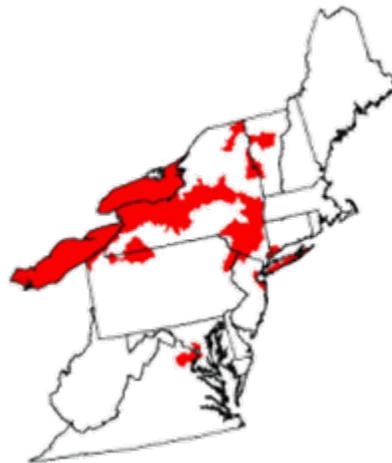
The European faucet snail was first identified in Oneida Lake in 1915 although it was documented in nearby Lake Ontario and the Hudson River in the late 1800s. Abundant in Oneida Lake by the 1960s, this mollusk has been called the “zebra mussel of the Twentieth Century” due to its clogging of municipal water systems during that time.

European faucet snail
USGS



European faucet snail shells, each showing four whorls
Bjorn de Boer

The faucet snail (or “mud bithynia”) ranges in color from light brown to black, has four to five whorls, and can live up to 4 years. Shells can reach just over ½ inch in length. These snails feed by grazing on algae present on submerged surfaces but prefer suspension feeding—a method where algae are filtered from the water. This snail thrived in Oneida Lake’s nutrient and algae rich waters of the 1950s and 1960s. It had a significant impact on the lake’s molluscan fauna causing the extirpation of several important native snail species.



Nonindigenous range of the faucet snail
USGS

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