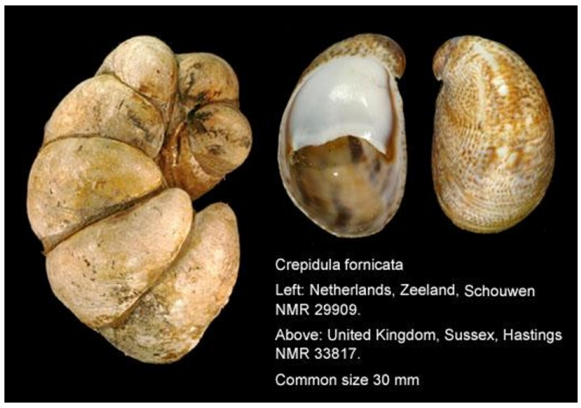
Crepidula fornicata

American limpet, Common Atlantic slippersnail, Slipper limpet



Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
   - Alters sediment characteristics (by removing a huge volume of suspended organic material from water column, depositing filtered material on bottom as pseudofeces)
   - Compete with native species for resources
2. Invasive potential
   - Can be transported in ballast water, on ship hulls, and with importation of oysters.
   - "These species are also known to occur on the carapaces of horseshoe crabs (personal observation and Botton & Ropes 1988, in Collin, 2001), which could result in occasional long distance dispersal"
3. Geographic extent
   - Locally pervasive
4. Management difficulty
   - Few management options are available to combat this species
   - Dredging operations to clear slipper limpets from oyster beds have been attempted in some areas, but it was concluded that further spread of the species could not be prevented

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Atlantic Coast and Gulf of Mexico
2. Introduced: Washington, Oregon, California

Invasion Pathways

1. Stocking in open water - oyster farming
2. Hull/Surface fouling
3. Ballast water and sediments

Non-Native Locations

1. 56- Puget Trough/Georgia Basin
2. 57- OR, WA, Vancouver
3. 58- Northern California

Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. "Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity." *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment
3. http://www.nmr-pics.nl/Calyptraeidae/album/slides/Crepidula%20fornicata.jpg