



Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds - Mini Fact Sheet Edition

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Asian tramp snail (369)



Photo 1. Collection of Asian tramp snails, *Bradybaena similis*, showing the variation of shell colour.



Photo 2. Shells of the tramp snail, *Bradybaena similis*, showing outward curling of the lip at the mouth of the shell; this lip is white (on some shells).



Photo 3. Asian tramp snail, *Bradybaena similis*, on bitter melon.



Photo 4. Asian tramp snail, *Bradybaena similis*, and leaf damage on bitter melon.

Summary

- Worldwide distribution. Common in Pacific island countries.
- Shells vary, 12-16 mm diam, whitish to light brown, with or without narrow brown bands between whorls, and outward curved white lip. Hermaphrodite, capable of self-fertilization. Eggs below soil surface, hatchlings after 15 days, adults after 6 months.
- Damage direct: many crops (vegetables, trees, ornamentals) of economic importance eaten; indirect, faeces may contain rat lung worm.
- Spread on 'foot' or long distances via international plant trade.
- Biosecurity: commonly found on freight containers (hence the name 'tramp').
- Natural enemies: predatory snails and flatworms should NOT be introduced without environmental impact studies. These generalists will annihilate local snails. Use Indian runner ducks.
- Cultural control: bare earth or sand around plots; collect snails; use beer traps to attract snails.
- Chemical control: Note metaldehyde NOT encouraged: toxic to livestock, pets and humans; use baits with iron phosphate, sodium ferric EDTA - effective and safer.

Common Name

Asian tramp snail

Scientific Name

Bradybaena similaris; previously, *Helix similaris*.

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Information from Brodie G & Barker GM (2012) *Bradybaena similaris* (Rang, 1831). Family Bradybaenidae. Introduced land snails of the Fiji Islands. Fact Sheet Series, No. 2. USP, Fiji; and Bradybaenidae. Terrestrial Mollusc Tool. USDA, University of Florida. (<http://idtools.org/id/mollusc/factsheet.php?name=Bradybaenidae>); and Asian trampsnail. Wikipedia. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asian_trampsnail); and from Capinera JL, White (2014) Featured Creatures: Terrestrial snails affecting plants in Florida. UF/IFAS, University of Florida. (http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/misc/gastro/terrestrial_snails.htm). Photo 1 Zell H *Bradybaena similaris*. (https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bradybaena_similaris_01.JPG).

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This mini fact sheet is a part of the app *Pacific Pests, Pathogens & Weeds*

The mobile application is available from the Google Play Store and Apple iTunes.

