

Spreading fast in Singapore

A new species of mussel – *Mytella strigata* – that could have come from as far away as the Americas has since 2016 been spreading rapidly along Singapore's northern coast.

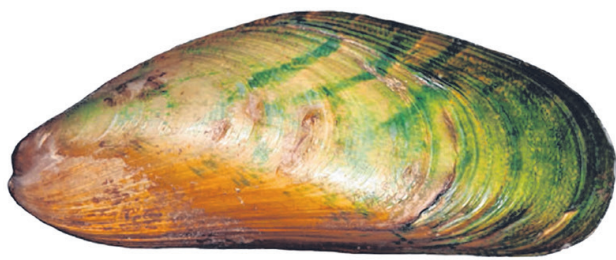
WHERE ARE THE MUSSELS FOUND



DISTRIBUTION (Based on published sources)



ABOUT THE MOLLUSC



Wide variation in external shell colours –

from almost entirely bright green to shades of orange, grey, brown and black.

Its presence in Singapore is likely to

persist and spread to other similar habitats in the Singapore Strait.

Singapore has the **highest invasion risk among the world's ports**

The largest individuals collected from Singapore measured in excess of 5cm.

It is believed that viable and reproducing individuals were **already present in the Strait of Johor in late 2015.**

The invasive nature of this species outside its native range was **first reported in 1986**, when a large population of *Mytella* was seen inside seawater intake pipes at a power plant in Florida.

WHY ITS PRESENCE IS OF CONCERN

• Observed in clumps of up to 10,000 individuals (below), the invasive American brackish-water mussel has been clogging up nets in fish farms here, and displacing the Asian green mussel native to Singapore.

• It has also been forming dense mats at the Kranji mudflats – home to rare horseshoe crabs – and the appearance of the mussels in these ancient creatures' habitat has made it difficult for them to burrow into the sand.

