

Some examples of invasive species in Singapore

Red-eared slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*)

This turtle is native to eastern and central US, and is commonly sold as a pet. It is highly reproductive and can quickly establish feral populations when released into water bodies. They have been spotted in places like MacRitchie Reservoir. Their presence can affect native freshwater turtles such as the Malayan box turtle, especially as the slider can lay up to a dozen eggs a year, compared with the Malayan box turtle's two.



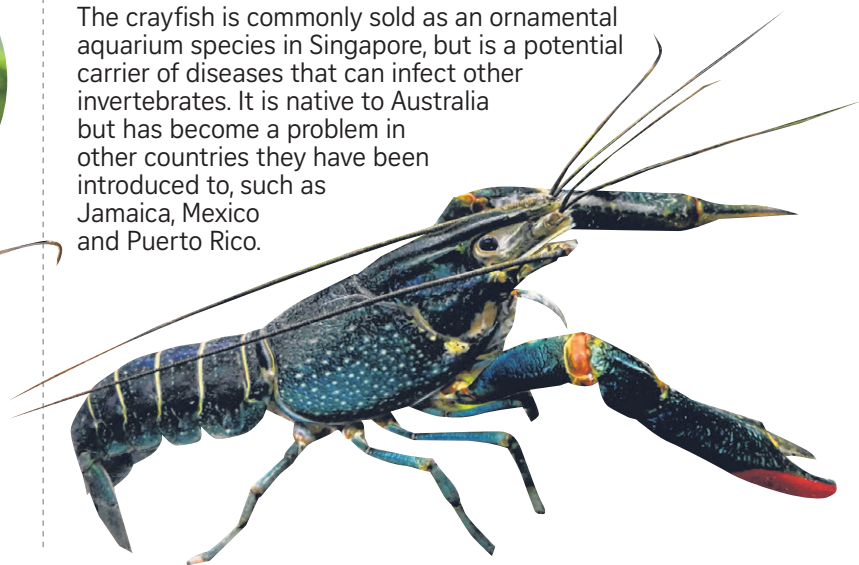
Golden apple snail (*Pomacea canaliculata*)

Originally from South America, it is among the 100 most invasive species in the world. Its presence can be easily identified by bright pink egg clusters near water. In Singapore, it was introduced through the aquarium trade and is currently well-established in reservoirs and other water bodies. This foreign species can outcompete the Republic's snails because it can lay up to 1,000 eggs, compared with the hundreds laid by the native apple snail.



Australian red-claw crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*)

The crayfish is commonly sold as an ornamental aquarium species in Singapore, but is a potential carrier of diseases that can infect other invertebrates. It is native to Australia but has become a problem in other countries they have been introduced to, such as Jamaica, Mexico and Puerto Rico.



Peacock bass (*Cichla temensis*)

This large fish originates from South America and is predatory in nature. Aquarium hobbyists released it into local reservoirs, and it competes with native species for food and shelter, according to Ecology Asia. It has been caught by anglers in Singapore's waterways. Earlier this month, a clip surfaced on Facebook showing two boys fishing illegally at Merlion Park and pulling out a large yellow peacock bass.



American brackish-water mussel (*Mytella strigata*)

Since 2016 the mussel, which is native to the Americas, has been spreading rapidly along Singapore's northern coast, clogging up nets in fish farms and displacing the Republic's native Asian green mussels, as it competes with local molluscs for space. According to researchers from the National University of Singapore, it could have come from Brazil, Colombia or Ecuador or from the Philippines, where it was introduced in the 19th century.

