

Mytilopsis sallei

SYSTEM

Marine

COMMON NAMES

English: false mussel, Caribbean black-striped mussel, Caribbean black-striped false mussel, Santo Domingo false mussel, black striped mussel

DESCRIPTION

Mytilopsis sallei is a small, fingernail sized mussel, growing to an average size of 25mm, although sizes range from lengths of 8-25mm, with a maximum width of 9.68mm and a maximum height of 12.58mm. It has a varied shell colouration, from black through to a light colour, with some small individuals having a light and dark zig-zag pattern. The right valve overlaps the left valve, and is slightly larger. *M. sallei* settles in clusters, and is rarely seen as a single individual (NIMPIS, 2002).

NATIVE RANGE

World: Atlantic - Western Central, Guatemala, United States, West Indies

KNOWN INTRODUCED RANGE

ASEAN: Singapore

WORLD: Australia, Hongkong, Japan, Fiji, India, Mexico, Taiwan

PATHWAY

Transport – Ship/boat hull fouling

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Hull fouling is often an important factor in incursions, such as the introduction of *M. sallei* to Darwin Harbour, Australia in the 1990s (Hutchings et al. 2002). Spread via ballast water appears less likely because of the short duration of the larval stage (CSIRO, 2001).

IMPACTS

Mytilopsis sallei is an extremely prolific and fecund species, being ecologically similar to its relation the zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*. It has been responsible for massive fouling on wharves and marinas, seawater systems (pumping stations, vessel ballast and cooling systems) and marine farms. In preferred habitats, it forms dense monospecific groups that exclude most other species, leading to a substantial reduction in biodiversity in infected areas (NIMPIS, 2002; CSIRO, 2001).

Source: Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2015. Species profile *Mytilopsis sallei*. Available from: <http://www.iucngisd.org/gisd/species.php?sc=1047> [Accessed 09 September 2019]



Photo by Tan Koh Siang accessed at <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/119604> on 12 September 2019