

# FEDERATION OF BRITISH AQUATIC SOCIETIES

## AQUARIUM MANAGEMENT CARE SHEET No 11      Apple Snails (1)

Whilst many fishkeepers regard Snails as a pest to be eradicated (or controlled at least) due to their appetite for aquatic plants, there can be some good reasons for having Snails. In the marine aquarium, for instance, gangs of Snails do much to clean up any uneaten food, algae and debris.

Although Snails might not be so desirable in freshwater aquariums or ponds, a group of Snails does have a very practical use, especially when breeding fish

The 'Apple Snail' has a voracious appetite and, as a consequence, produces copious amounts of waste. However, this waste does help to produce infusoria-rich water which can be used as a first food for the tiniest of fry. Hence their inclusion in this series of Care Sheets

**Genera :** *Pomacea canaliculata*

**Family:** Ampullariidae

**Geographic Origin :** native to central/south America but introduced to Far East

**Common Names :** Apple Snail Channelled Apple Snail

**Compatibility :** Community – only with peaceful inhabitants. No aggressive fish, eg: Cichlids, Goldfish. No Loaches, Pufferfish or other snail-eating fish.

**Minimum Aquarium size:** 4 gallons per adult

**Temperature :** 18-28°C

**Habitat :** Prefers lentic waters to turbulent. Coverglass a necessity as snails can survive for a long time out of water and escape the aquarium.  
Air space above water levels essential for egg-laying as eggs are laid out of water, otherwise babies will drown. Mainly active at night.

**Water Parameters :** pH 7.5-8.5, zero ammonia, nitrite. Freshwater. No salt.  
No trace metals especially copper.

**Health :** The addition of calcium, and carbonate salts may be needed for shell health in some soft water areas.

**Diet :** Shrimp, flake foods, algae tablets, fresh fruits, spinach, cucumber, courgette (cooked), green beans (cooked), broccoli (cooked), most soft green vegetables.  
Will devour most vegetation

**Plants :** See Diet!

**Availability :** Readily available at aquatics shops

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## AQUARIUM MANAGEMENT SHEET No 11

## Apple Snail (2)

**Genera :** *Pomacea bridgesii*

**Family :** Ampullariidae

**Geographic Origin :** native to central/south America but introduced to Far East

**Common Names :** Apple Snail; Golden Mystery Snail; Brazilian Apple Snail

**Compatibility :** Community – only with peaceful inhabitants. No aggressive fish, eg: Cichlids, Goldfish. No Loaches, Pufferfish or other snail-eating fish.

**Minimum Aquarium size :** 2 gallons per adult

**Temperature :** 18°-28°C

**Habitat :** Prefers lentic waters to turbulent. Coverglass a necessity as snails can survive for a long time out of water and escape the aquarium.  
Air space above water levels essential for egg laying as eggs are laid out of water, otherwise babies will drown. Mainly active at night.

**Water Parameters :** pH 7.5-8.5, zero ammonia, nitrite. Freshwater. No salt.  
No trace metals especially copper.

**Health :** The addition of calcium, and carbonate salts may be needed for shell health in some soft water areas.

**Diet :** Shrimp, flake foods, algae tablets, fresh fruits, spinach, cucumber, courgette (cooked), green beans (cooked), broccoli (cooked), most soft green vegetables

**Plants :** *P. bridgesii* – will not eat

**Availability :** Common colours readily available from aquatics shops, rarer colours available from private breeders.