

Giant Applesnail

Pomacea maculata

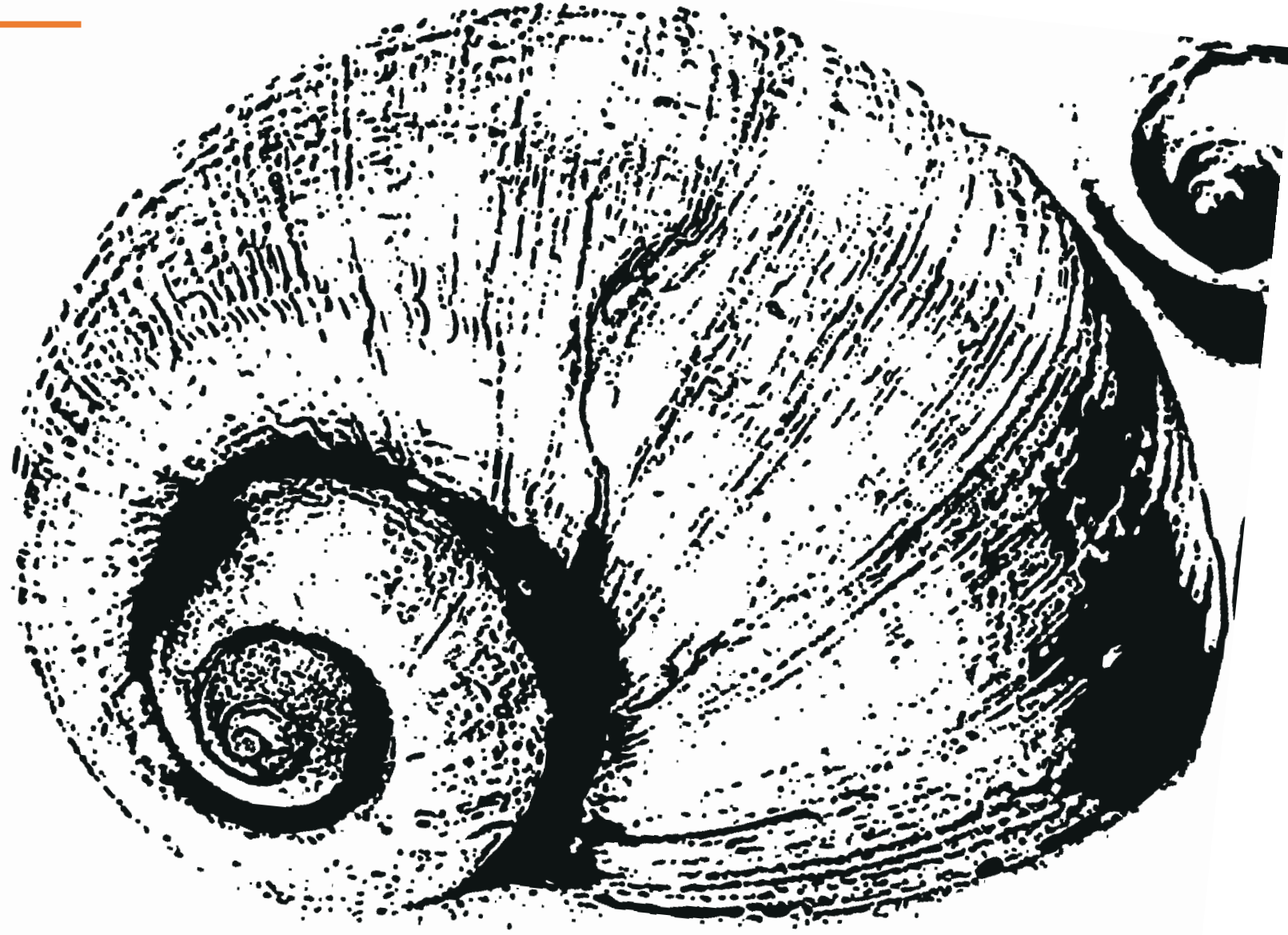
USGS Nonindigenous Aquatic
Species (NAS) Database



These large snails are from South America, and are introduced throughout the Southeast United States, from Texas over to the Carolinas. These snails grow as big as a tennis ball and eat large amounts of vegetation and the eggs of other aquatic animals.

What is a non-native or invasive species?

If an organism is introduced to an area where it is not historically known to live, it is considered non-native. A species is considered invasive if it establishes a breeding population and causes harm to the native ecosystem, human health, or the economy.



Lionfish

Pterois volitans/miles

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These many-finned fish live up to their name, with their stripes and flowing fins resembling the mane of a lion. They are from the Pacific and Indian Oceans but have been introduced to the Atlantic and Caribbean Oceans from aquariums. These fish's fins aren't just for show, they are also to warn other animals that they should stay away, because they pack venomous spines!

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Sacred Lotus

Nelumbo nucifera

The sacred lotus was brought to the United States from Asia for use in water gardens because of its beautiful flowers, and it has now spread into the wild through much of the eastern U.S. The leaves of this floating plant can block sunlight through the water that other plants need to grow.

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Cuban Treefrog

Osteopilus septentrionalis

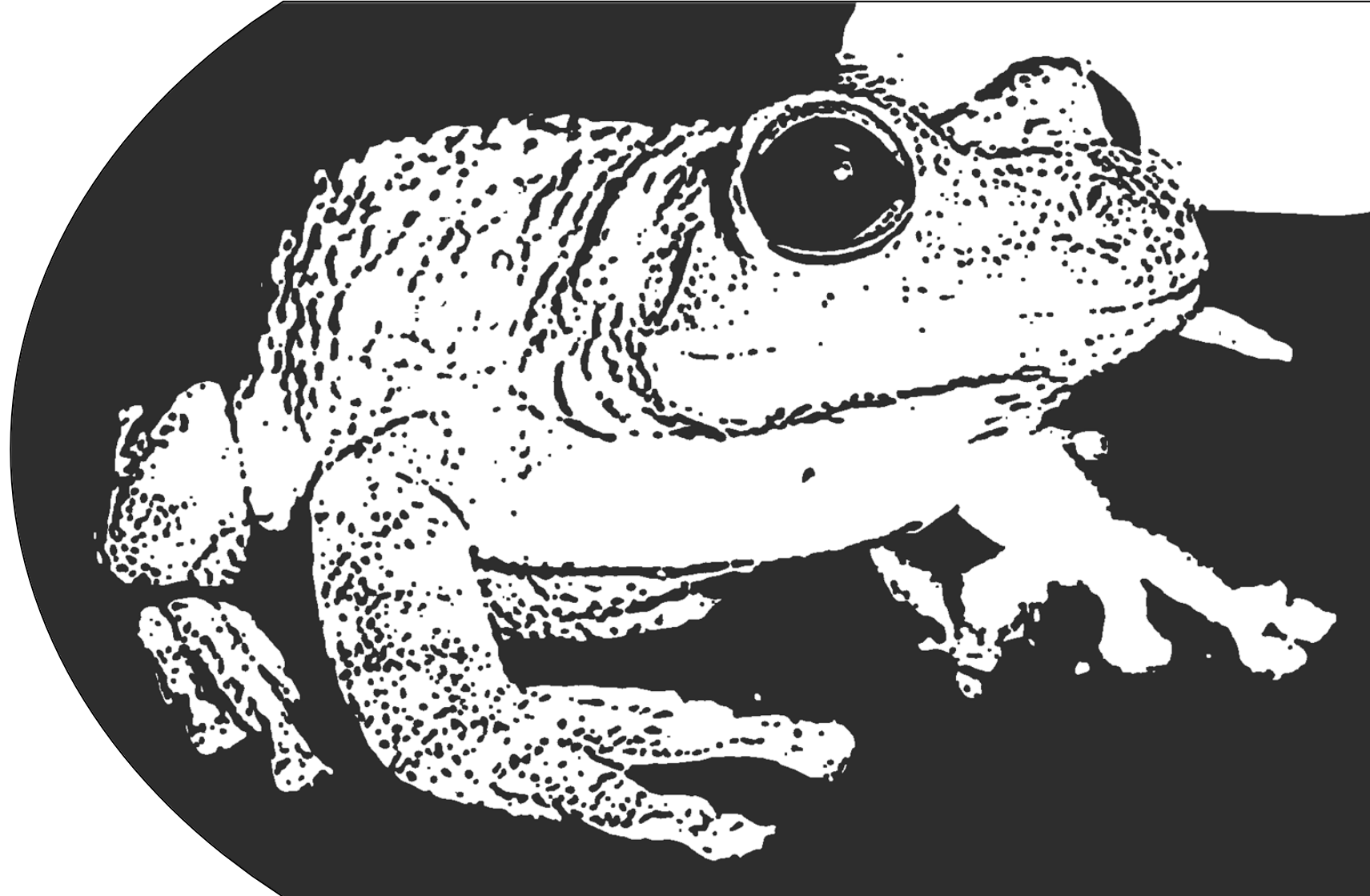
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This frog, like its name suggests, is from Cuba and much of the Caribbean, but is now at home in much of the southeastern US, from Texas all the way to South Carolina. Look for exceptionally large, sticky toe pads to tell this frog from a native treefrog. Unfortunately for the native treefrogs, the Cuban treefrog has a hefty appetite and makes a meal of any frog it can fit in its mouth!

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Zebra Mussels

Dreissena polymorpha

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Zebra mussels are small bivalve shellfish that grow together in a colony. They are from the Caspian Sea, but were introduced to the Great Lakes from ship water and have traveled through waterways all around the United States. These small mussels cause big problems, as they cover any surface under the water that they come in contact with, including boats and other animals!

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Nutria

Myocastor coypus

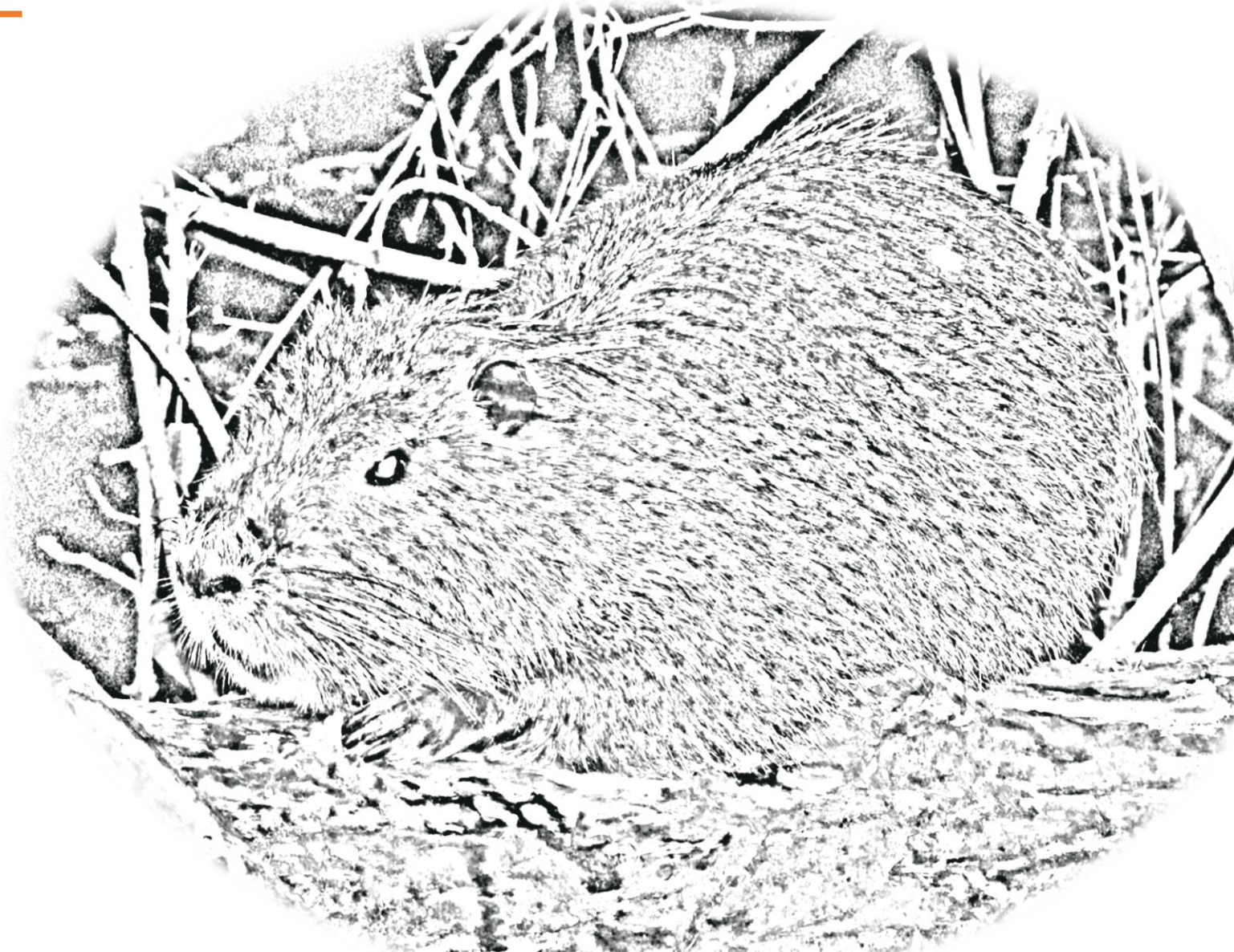
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The nutria is a large, aquatic rodent that resembles the native beaver or muskrat, but this species was introduced from South America for its fur. This mammal has spread throughout the Eastern and Western U.S. and has been found in 29 states. It has a large appetite, and uses its big orange teeth to eat vegetation, sometimes clearing entire areas of aquatic plants!

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Midas Cichlid

Amphilophus citrinellus

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Midas cichlids are native to Central America, and now they are making themselves right at home in Florida. These fish can live in even bad conditions and are voracious eaters.

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