

# JAPANESE OYSTER DRILL

*Ocenebrellus inornatus*

## WHAT IS IT?

*Ocenebrellus inornatus* is a small predatory marine snail.

It has a height up to 60mm.

It is beige, brown, orange or striped.

Shell morphology can vary significantly between individuals.

The primary pathway of introduction and spread is movement of shellfish.



## WHERE MIGHT I SEE IT?

Typically found in estuaries and coastal waters, in rocky intertidal and shallow subtidal areas.

It can be found on gravel, mud, and shell substrates, usually in oyster beds – both farmed and wild.

## WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

It preys on oysters, scallops, mussels, clams, cockles, barnacles and other gastropods, by drilling through their shells and ingesting their flesh.

Introduction and establishment in UK waters threatens economically and environmentally significant species, such as the Pacific oyster (*Magallana gigas*), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and European flat oysters (*Ostrea edulis*).

## WHAT CAN I DO?

### REPORT SIGHTINGS

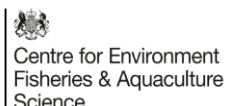
Submit records to [iRecord.org.uk](https://www.record.org.uk) or contact [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk)

REDUCE RISK OF INTRODUCTION AND SPREAD THROUGH BEST PRACTICE BIOSECURITY

<https://www.nonnativespecies.org/biosecurity/marine-biosecurity/>

**For further information:**

<https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/3816>



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## ID GUIDE

It can sometimes be very difficult to distinguish between a native and non-native oyster drill, but here are a few differences to look out for:

### European oyster drill (native)

*Ocenebra erinaceus*

### Japanese oyster drill (non-native)

*Ocenebrellus inornatus*

#### 1. Size

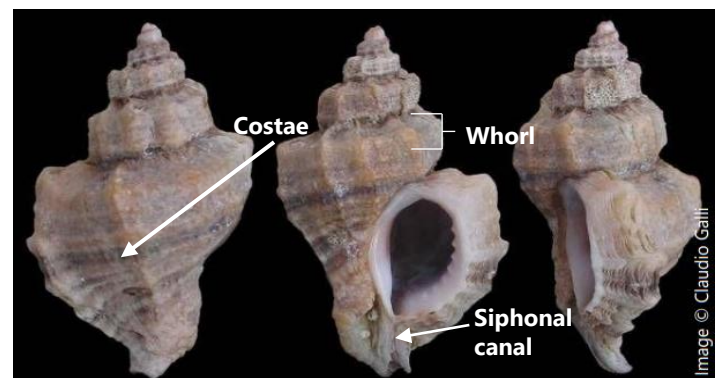
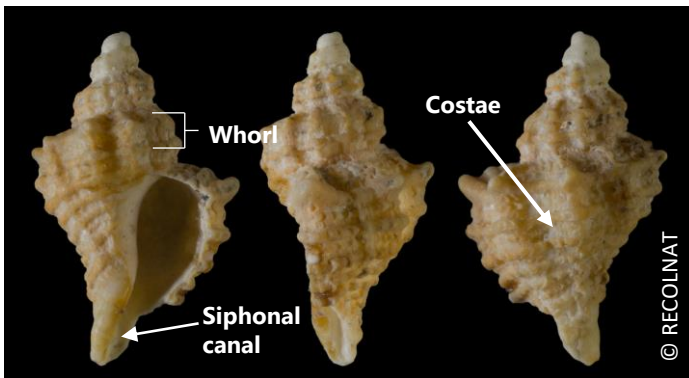
- Shell height up to 50 mm

- Shell height up to 60 mm

#### 2. Ridges & whorls

- The last whorl typically has 7-8 flared vertical ridges (costae), generally less raised and well-spaced than *O. inornatus*
- Typically, 8-9 widely spaced whorls with an angled shoulder

- 4-11 flared vertical ridges (costae) occurring irregularly on the whorls
- Typically, 5-6 whorls



#### 3. Siphonal canal

- Has a longer open siphonal canal (a tube-like extension of the opening of the shell)

- Straight, short siphonal canal that is closed along its length

#### 4. Egg cases

- Egg capsules 6-13 mm high. Triangular shaped. Whitish turning to yellow or purple with age

- Egg capsules 15-20 mm high. Crescent-shaped. Whitish turning yellow with age



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