WHAT IS IT?

*Ocinebrellus 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](http://iRecord.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/](https://www.nonnativespecies.org/biosecurity/marine-biosecurity/)

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**
*Ocenebra erinaceus*

1. **Size**
   - Shell height up to 50 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

**Japanese oyster drill**
*Ocinebrellus inornatus*

1. **Size**
   - Shell height up to 60 mm

2. **Ridges & whorls**
   - 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)

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

For further information: