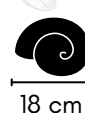
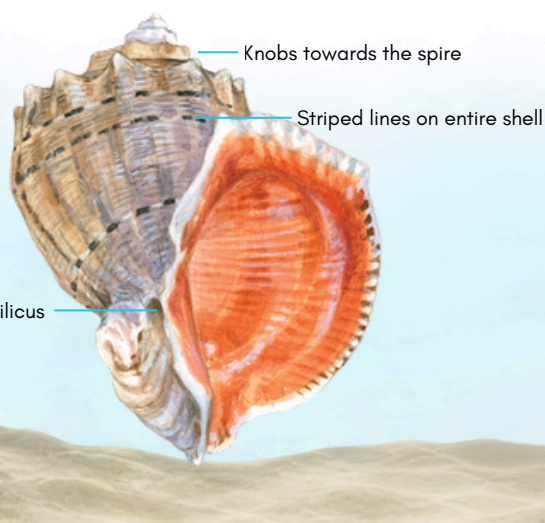


Rapa whelk - *Rapana venosa*



IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

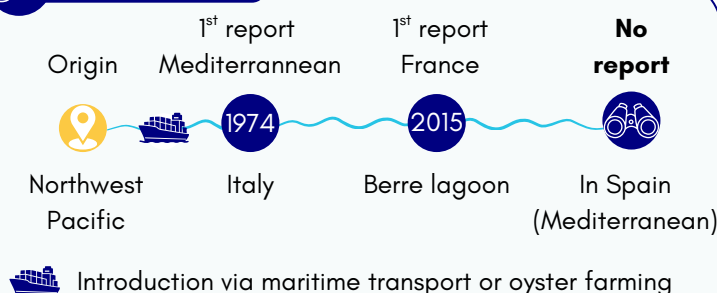
Shell: oval with **dotted white and black lines**, a **short spire** topped with pronounced **bumps**, and a **short, wide siphonal canal**

Shell opening: shiny, smooth, and intense **yellow-orange** in color, bordered by an outer lip with **elongated teeth**



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ITS HISTORY



ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The rapa whelk greatly affects **coastal benthic ecosystems**, particularly due to its carnivorous diet. Lacking effective natural predators in European waters (such as the giant starfish from its native range), it competes with local gastropods and **disrupts the trophic chain**. Economically, the proliferation of this mollusk causes significant **damage to shellfish farming**. However, in some areas like the Black Sea or Asia, a **commercial fishery** has developed due to its highly prized meat on Asian markets.

FUN FACTS

Antioxidant, antimicrobial, and anticancer properties

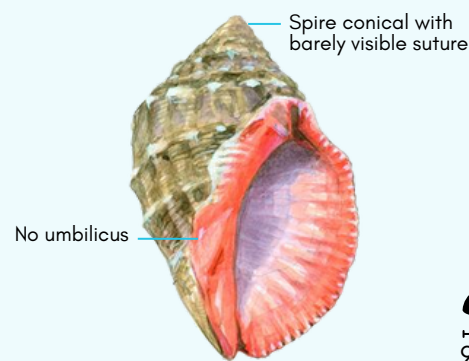
Declining population in its native range

Inflicts **chemical suffocation** on its prey

SIMILAR SPECIES

Red-mouthed Dog Winkle *Stramonita haemastoma*

Native Mediterranean species



Report your observation

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