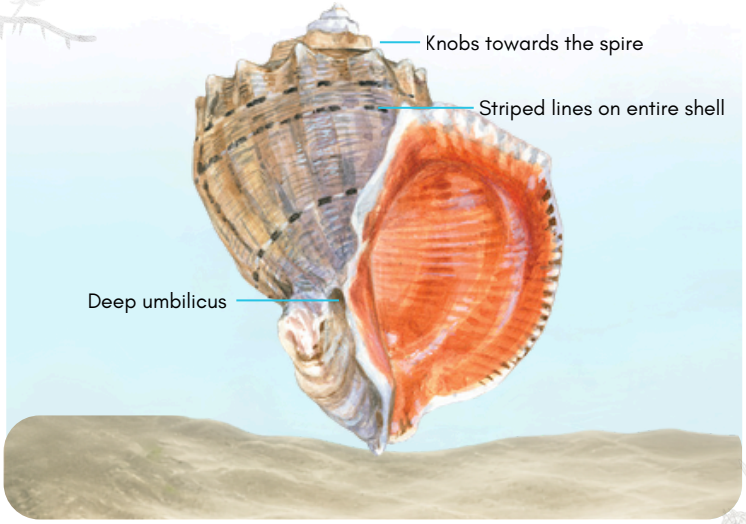
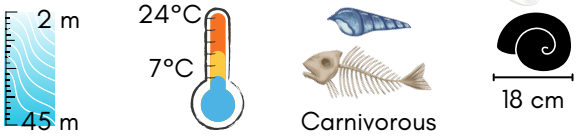
ALIEN-OCCICAT

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

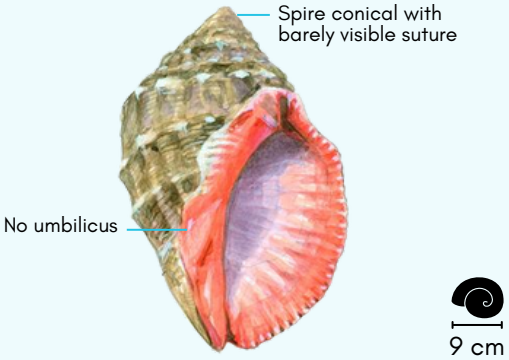
Origin	1st report Mediterranean	1st report France	**No report**
Northwest Pacific	1974 Italy	2015 Berre lagoon	In Spain (Mediterranean)

Introduction via maritime transport or oyster farming

SIMILAR SPECIES

Red-mouthed Dog Winkle
Stramonita haemastoma

Native Mediterranean species



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

Report your observation

MINKA

BioObs

Sources (details page "Credits"): Astruch et al. (2025); Ban et al. (2014); Castriota et al. 2026; Dağtekin et al. (2023); Gofas et al. (2003); ICES (2004); Kosyan (2016); Ríos Jiménez et al. (2026); Saleh et al. (2026)

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