

Infection with Iridoviruses (Gill Necrosis Virus)

Disease agent: Unassigned iridoviruses in the family Iridoviridae.



Presence in Australia: **Exotic**

Presence in Queensland: **Exotic**

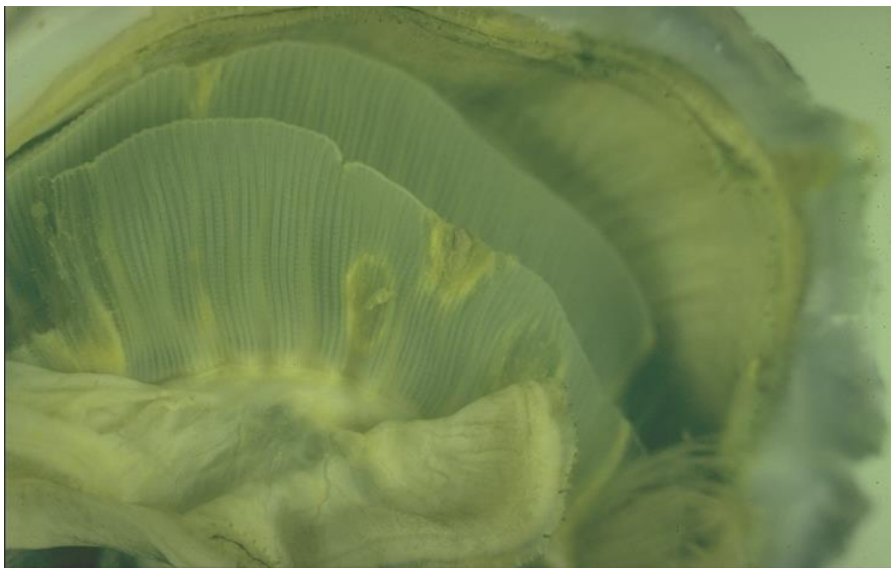


Iridoviral diseases of molluscs are exotic to Australia and have not been recorded in any State.

Signs of Disease:

Molluscs infected with these viruses may exhibit the following signs:

- yellow or green pustules on the mantle or adductor muscle
- yellow spots on the gills and labial palps that enlarge into ulcers and spread as disease progresses
- the ulcers develop brown centres as the infected tissues die, leaving holes in the gills
- high mortalities



Infection with iridovirus:

Left. A Portuguese oyster from Europe infected with iridovirus. Note the multiple ulcers which are visible in the gill tissue.

Photo: D. Alderman

Host Species affected may include:

Flat oysters Pacific oysters
Sydney rock oysters

Imported seafood including:

European flat oysters Pacific oysters
Portugese oysters

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

East Coast Pearl Fishery
Trochus Fishery
Rock Oyster Industry
East Coast Otter Trawl Fishery

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not translocate molluscs of unknown disease status from areas where iridoviruses are known to occur. Do not use imported seafood (including mollusc products) for bait or berley.

Basic decontamination information:

This disease agent can be inactivated by the following treatments: Dessication (drying out). Iridoviruses of molluscs are also likely to be inactivated by high temperatures, freshwater and common disinfectants including chlorine, ozone, hydrogen peroxide and benzalkonium chloride, however effective doses/durations for these chemicals have not been published.

What to do if this disease is suspected:

If you suspect this disease is present please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (13 25 23) or the National 24 hr Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (1800 675 888) immediately.

How to collect and store samples for diagnosis:

If you are taking samples to help authorities to test for this disease, whole molluscs should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice.

Learn more

For more information about iridoviruses of molluscs and other diseases of aquatic animals of significance to Australia, download the **Aquatic Disease Field Guide App** available for iOS, android and windows devices at these locations:

IOS<https://goo.gl/9UJNp9>**ANDROID**<https://goo.gl/T4Tn1X>**WINDOWS**<https://goo.gl/Y8Vibi>

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