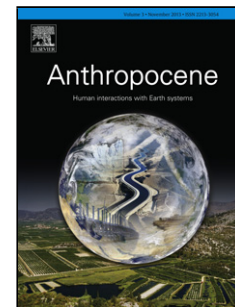


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Viewpoint article

**The giant African snail *Lissachatina fulica* as potential index fossil for the Anthropocene**

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**Abstract**

The giant African snail *Lissachatina fulica* can be used as potential index fossil for the "Anthropocene" in tropical and subtropical non-marine sediments that also indicates human-modified environments. It originated in the coastal region of East Africa and has been distributed across the tropics and subtropics within the past 200 years. Its rapid range expansion was facilitated by the increasing international trade and reflects human impact on the environment because its establishment was facilitated by the accelerating transformation of tropical forests into agricultural landscapes. Usually, its population density increases rapidly after establishment in a new area, so that remains of the large and robust shells will be traceable in suitable sediments. Because no other

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