



Bristol Regional Environmental  
Records Centre

# Key to the SNAILS of the Bristol Region

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A.S.D.

This publication has been supported by The Bristol Magpies  
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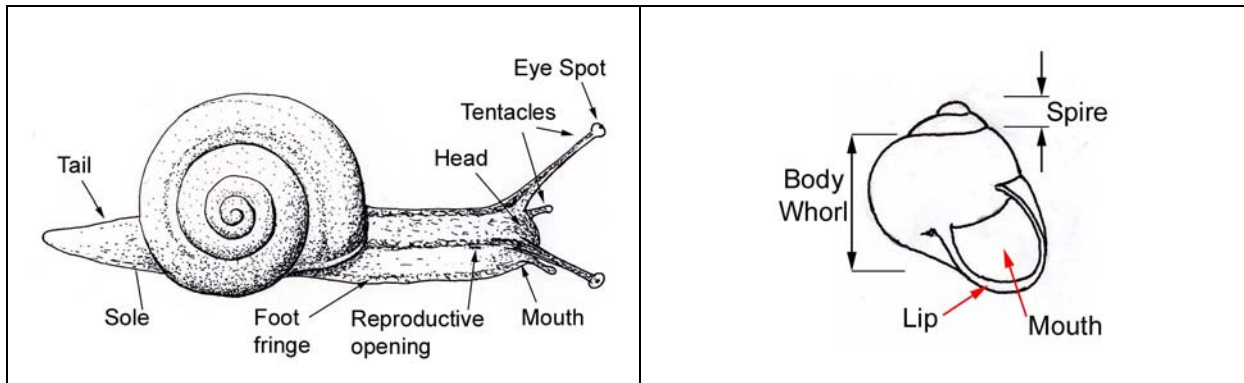
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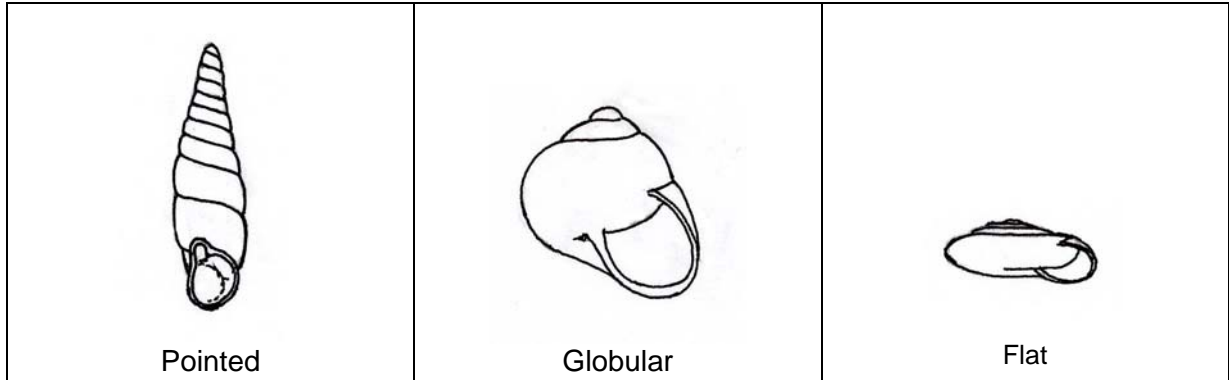
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# SNAILS of the Bristol Region

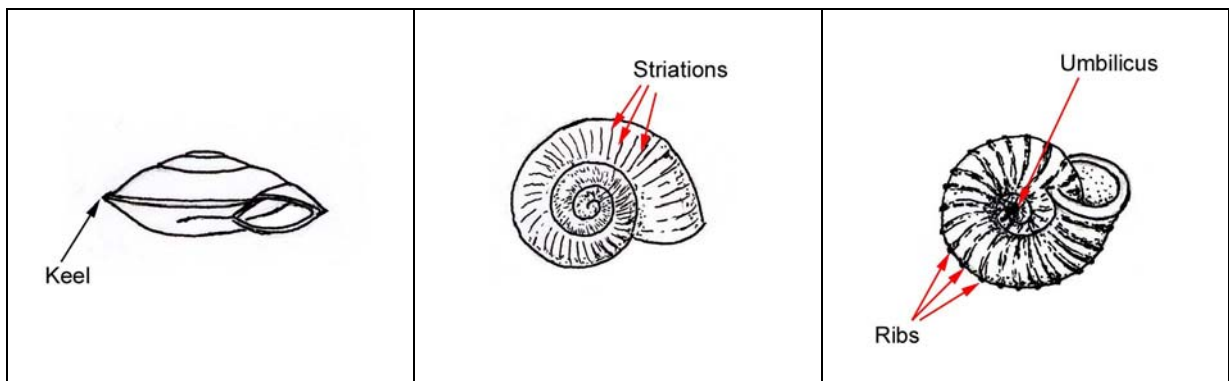
## External Characteristics



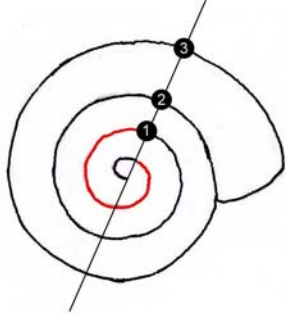
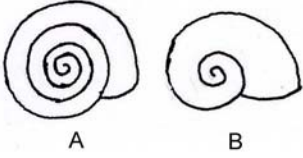
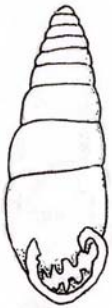
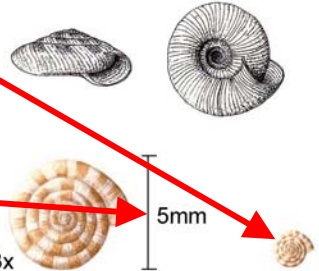
## Shapes of Shell



## Shell Features

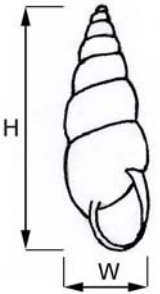
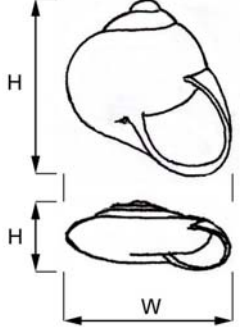


## Shell Features


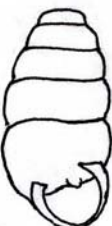
<p><b>Counting Whorls</b></p>	<p>Draw a line across the shell lined up with the centre.</p> <p>The number of complete whorls (first whorl shown in red) will match the number of times the line crosses the spiral – here 3.</p> <p>Add on the amount for any incomplete whorls to give the final count – This gives a total of 3.25 whorls for this example.</p>	
<p><b>Whorls</b></p>	<p>A = Slowly expanding (or tightly packed) whorls.</p> <p>B = Rapidly expanding whorls.</p>	
<p><b>Teeth</b></p>	<p>Some species of snails have teeth like features in the mouth of the shell.</p>	
<p><b>Illustrations</b></p>	<p>Each set of illustrations for a snail will include a life-size representation of the snail in the bottom left hand corner.</p> <p>The other parts of the illustration will be shown at a scale indicated by a scale bar in cm or mm and a magnification (e.g. 3x).</p>	

# Key

## 1

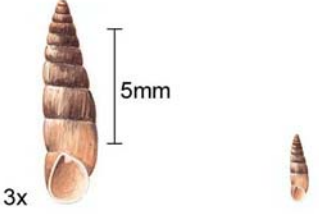
Height of shell greater than width	.....	2	
Height of shell not greater than width	.....	18	

## 2

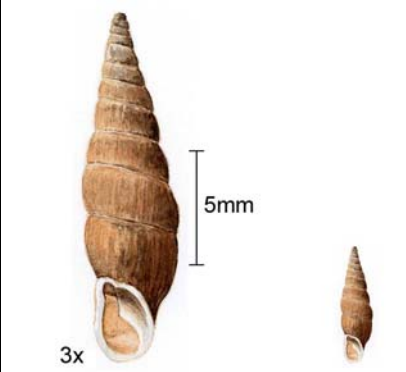
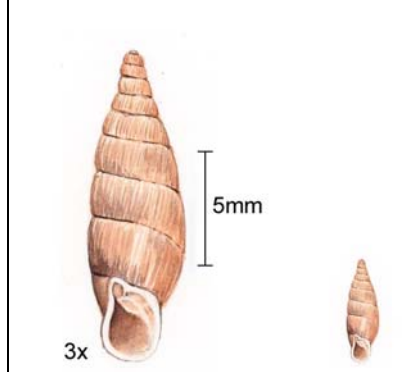
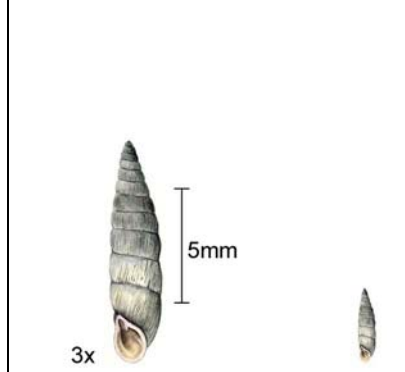
Mouth of shell to left (sinistral)	.....	3	
Mouth of shell to right (dextral)	.....	5	

## TALL, THIN, LEFT SIDED SHELLS

3



Teeth absent	.....		<p style="text-align: center;">Tree Snail <i>Balea (Balea) perversa</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Mouth square Rocky outcrops &amp; stone walls</p>
Teeth present	.....	4	

4

<b>Plaited Door Snail</b> <i>Cochlodina laminata</i>	<b>Rolph's Door Snail</b> <i>Macrogastera rolphii</i>	<b>Two-toothed Door Snail</b> <i>Clausilia (Clausilia) bidentata</i>
		
Shell smooth, glossy & translucent with only faint growth lines. Common, climbs trees & walls when wet.	Distinct vertical ribbing, widest point of shell greater than 3mm. Woodland leaf litter & rocky outcrops	Distinct growth lines, widest point of shell less than 3mm Leaf litter in woodland & hedges

## TALL, THIN, RIGHT SIDED SHELLS

5

Height greater than 10 mm	.....	6	
Height between 4 -10 mm	.....	9	
Height up to 4 mm	.....	13	

# TALL, THIN, RIGHT SIDED SHELLS GREATER THAN 10mm

6

Mouth greater than half the height of the whole shell. Very rapidly expanding whorls.	.....	8	
Mouth less than half the height of the whole shell.		7	

7

<b>Round-Mouthed Snail</b> <i>Pomatias elegans</i>	<b>Pointed Snail</b> <i>Cochlicella (Cochlicella) acuta</i>	<b>Mountain Bulin</b> <i>Ena montana</i>
Shell wide and thick with deep horizontal striations. Live specimens have operculum ('trap door') Common in moist calcareous areas.	Very tall & thin, though height variable (10-30 mm) Shell white or ginger with or without dark bands or blotches Coastal dunes & grassland.	Found in ancient woodland and hedgerows Rare  See 12 ( <i>Merdigera obscura</i> )

8

Shell greater than 12mm in height. Adult snail has a pale body colour.	.....	<b>Amber Snail</b> <i>Succinea putris</i>
Shell no more than 12mm in height. Adult has a dark body colour.	.....	<b>Pfeiffer's Amber Snail</b> <i>Oxyloma (Oxyloma) elegans</i>
		Common in fens, marshes and reed-beds
		Similar habitats to <i>S. Putris</i>

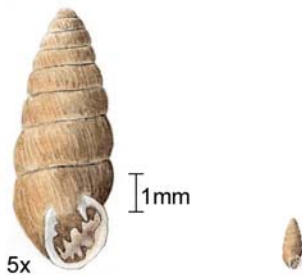
## TALL, THIN, RIGHT SIDED SHELLS 4-10 mm TALL

9

Teeth present	.....	10	
Teeth absent	.....	11	

10

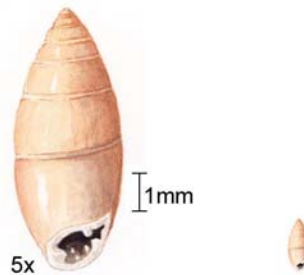
**Large Chrysalis Snail**  
*Abida secale*



5x      1mm

Shell thick, rough & strongly striated  
Rocky outcrops & open habitats in calcareous areas

**Three-toothed Snail**  
*Azeca goodalli*



5x      1mm

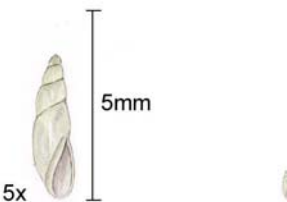
Shell thin & glossy, brown or white  
Shell pattern variable  
Leaf litter in woodlands

11

Mouth greater than half the height of the whole shell. Very rapidly expanding whorls.	.....	8	
Mouth less than half the height of the whole shell.		12	

12


**Blind Snail**  
*Cecilioides (Cecilioides) acicula*



5x      5mm

Shell very narrow (approximately 1mm), mouth large  
Lives underground in calcareous habitats, may be found near surface in mole hills

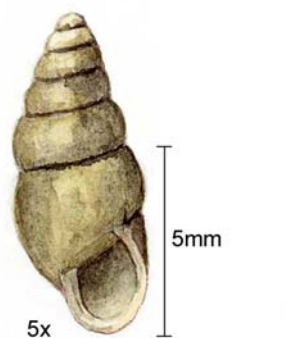
**Slippery Snail**  
*Cochlicopa cf. lubrica*  
Or  
**Least Slippery Snail**  
*Cochlicopa cf. lubricella*  
Illustrated: *Cochlicopa lubrica*



5x      5mm

Shell smooth and very glossy  
Dissection of shell needed – see Kerney & Cameron.  
Common in a variety of habitats

**Lesser Bulin**  
*Merdigera obscura*



5x      5mm

Shell dull, fine growth lines and thick white lip.  
Woodland & scrub  
See 7 (*Ena montana*)

**TALL, THIN RIGHT SIDED SHELLS LESS THAN 4 mm TALL**

13


Mouth with one or no teeth	.....	14	
Mouth with more than one tooth	.....	17	

14

Mouth with distinctly thickened lip	.....	15	
Mouth without thickened lip	.....	16	

15

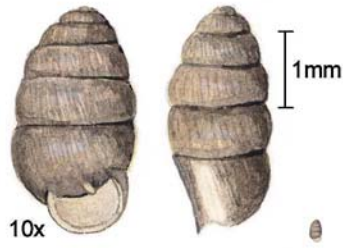
**Chrysalis Snail**  
*Lauria (Lauria) cylindracea*



10x

Single tooth contiguous with lip  
Lip of the shell is pale in fresh specimens.  
Common, often found under ivy on stone walls

**Moss Snail**  
*Pupilla (Pupilla) muscorum*

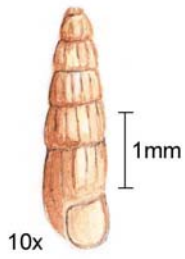


10x

Single or no tooth, lip not connected.  
Pale stripe behind mouth of shell.  
Open grassland, rocky outcrops, walls & sand dunes.

16

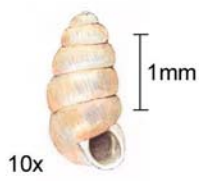
**Point Snail**  
*Acicula fusca*



10x

Shell with distinct vertical ribbing  
moist leaf litter or moss in ancient woodland

**Chrysalis Snails**  
*Columella sp.*

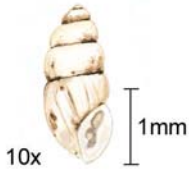
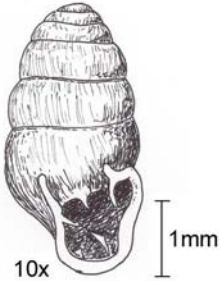
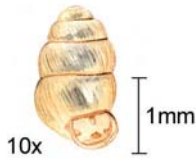


10x

Shell with only very faint striations  
Common in damp and calcareous areas

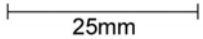
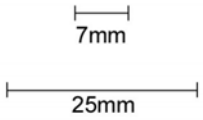


## TALL, THIN RIGHT SIDED SHELLS LESS THAN 4 mm TALL

17

<p>Herald Snails <i>Carychium tridentatum</i> &amp; <i>C. minimum</i></p>	<p>English Chrysalis Snail <i>Leiostyla anglica</i></p>	<p>Common Whorl Snail <i>Vertigo (Vertigo) pygmaea</i></p>
<p>Illustrated: <i>Carychium tridentatum</i></p> 		
<p>Examination of internal shell characteristics needed. See Kerney &amp; Cameron. Variety of habitats. <i>C. minimum</i> prefers wetter places.</p>	<p>Mouth 'pinched' Damp places in woods &amp; marshes</p>	<p>Full mouth! Dry calcareous grassland &amp; sand dunes</p>

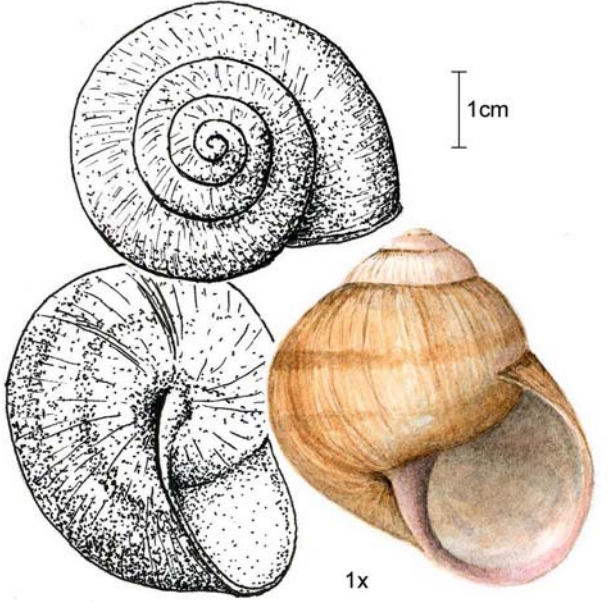

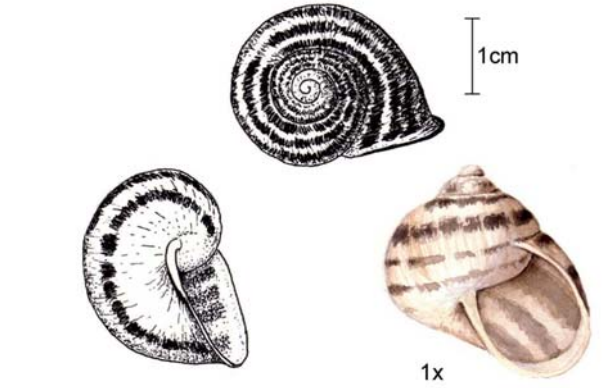
## SHELL GLOBULAR OR FLAT IN SHAPE

18

<p>Width of shell greater than 25mm</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>19</p>	
<p>Width of shell 7 – 25mm</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>20</p>	
<p>Width of shell 3 - 7mm</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>34</p>	
<p>Width of shell less than 3mm</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>37</p>	

**WIDTH OF SHELL GREATER THAN 25 mm**

19

<p>Shell creamy yellow</p>	<p>.....</p>		<p>Roman Snail <i>Helix (Helix) pomatia</i></p> 
			<p>Loose calcareous soil, generally not in gardens.</p>
<p>Shell blotched, striped or flecked dark brown</p> 	<p>.....</p>		<p>Common Garden Snail <i>Cornu aspersum</i></p>  <p>Umbilicus absent. Found in gardens, generally not in woodland or scrub.</p>

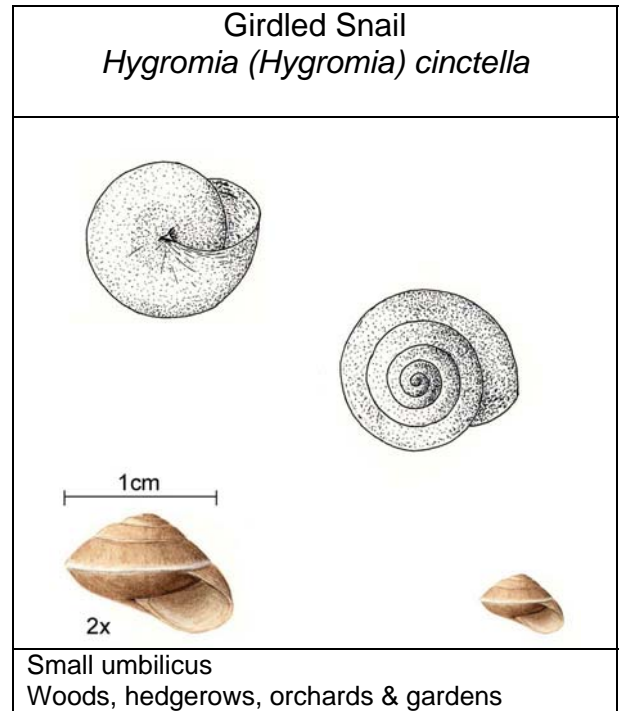
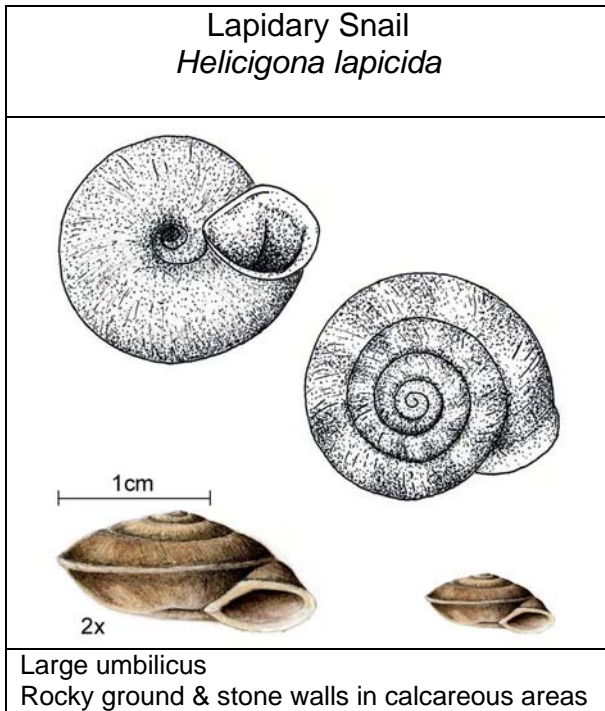
**WIDTH OF SHELL 7-25 mm**

20

<p>Shell sharply keeled</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>21</p>	
<p>Shell with blunt or no keel</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>22</p>	

## WIDTH OF SHELL 7-25 mm

# 21



- note size difference and relative umbilicus size
- see also **24** (*Candidula*) and **30** (*Trochulus (Trochulus) striolatus*)

# 22

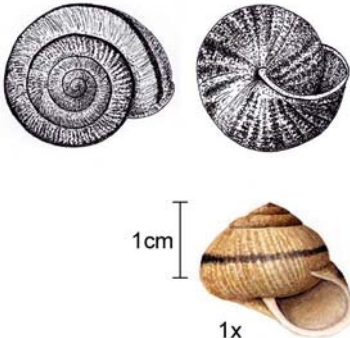
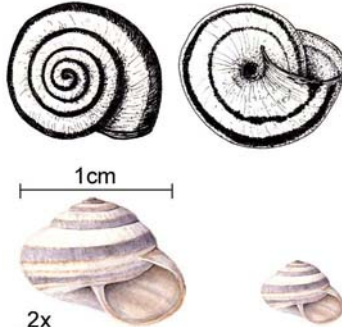
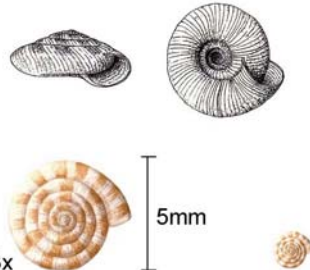
Shell with dark spiral bands, flecking or blotching	.....	<b>23</b>	
Shell white, yellow or brown with no darker bands or blotching	.....	<b>28</b>	<i>(Helicidae)</i>

# 23

Shell with flecking or blotching with or without dark spiral band	.....	<b>24</b>	
Shell with dark spiral bands but no flecking or blotching	.....	<b>25</b>	

## WIDTH OF SHELL 7-25 mm

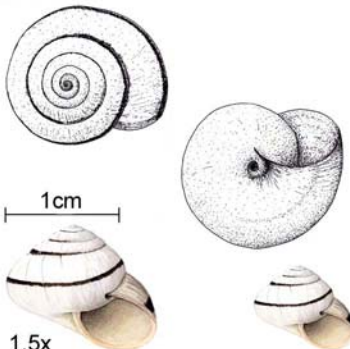
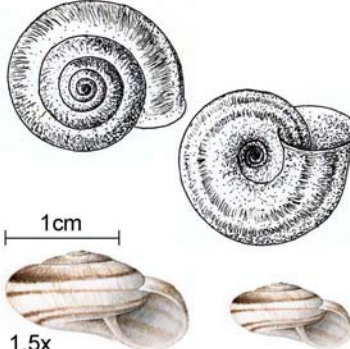
# 24

Copse Snail <i>Arianta arbustorum</i>	Wrinkled Snail & Eccentric Snail <i>Candidula intersecta</i> & <i>Candidula gigaxii</i> Illustration: <i>Candidula intersecta</i>	Rounded Snail <i>Discus (Gonyodiscus) rotundatus</i>
 <p style="text-align: center;">1cm 1x</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">1cm 2x</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">5mm 3x</p>
<p>Shell globular and may have blotches May be confused with <b>19</b> (<i>Cornu aspersum</i>), note presence of umbilicus here. Moist habitats</p>	<p>The amount of stripes on the shell can be variable, or absent. Height of shell less than <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> of width Shell spire flattened with <i>Candidula gigaxii</i>. Calcareous areas Consider young specimens of <b>26</b> (<i>Cerneuella virgata</i>).</p>	<p>Shell flattened, very large umbilicus Moist areas</p>

# 25


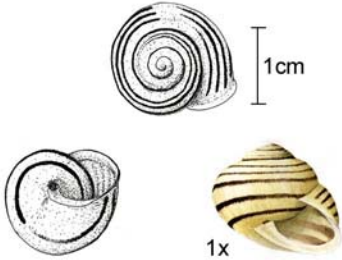

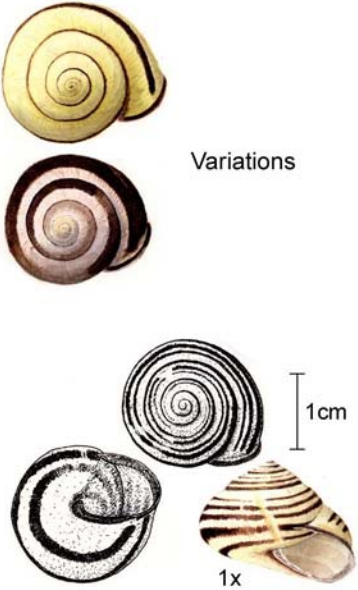
Base colour of shell whitish	.....	26	
Base colour of shell yellow, brown or pinkish brown	.....	27	

# 26

Banded Snail <i>Cerneuella (Cerneuella) virgata</i>	Heath Snail <i>Helicella itala</i>
 <p style="text-align: center;">1cm 1.5x</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">1cm 1.5x</p>
<p>Shell globular, spire raised (height at least <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> of width), and umbilicus small. The amount of stripes on the shell can be variable, or absent. Dry, exposed calcareous areas.</p>	<p>Flattened on top, large umbilicus Dry, exposed calcareous areas.</p>

**WIDTH OF SHELL 7-25 mm**

**27**

<p>Shell with white lip</p> 	<p>.....</p>		<p align="center">White-lipped Snail <i>Cepaea (Cepaea) hortensis</i></p> 
<p>Shell with brown lip</p> 	<p>.....</p>		<p align="center">Brown-lipped Snail <i>Cepaea (Cepaea) nemoralis</i></p>  <p align="center">*young and growing snails may lack lip making identification difficult</p>

- The number and thickness of stripes are very variable with both *C. hortensis* and *C. nemoralis*.
- The colouration of the shells can be variable too, from yellow, through brown to pink.

**GLOBULAR SHELLS 7-25 mm WIDE  
WITH NO DARKER BANDS OR DARK BLOTCHING**

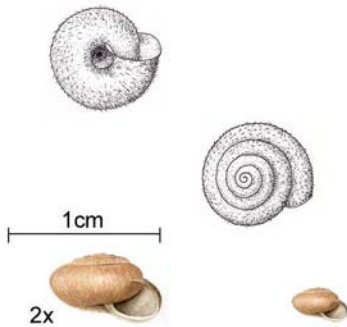
**28**

<p>Shell hairy</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Warning: Hairs may wear off adults and Juveniles of several species are hairy</p>
<p>Shell not hairy</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>30</p>	

**GLOBULAR SHELLS 7-25 mm WIDE  
WITH NO DARKER BANDS OR DARK BLOTCHING**

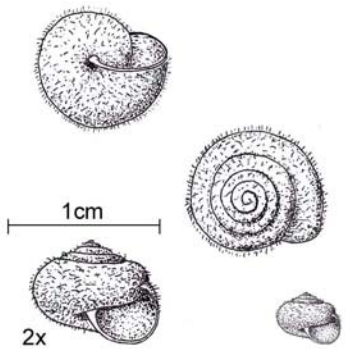
29

**Hairy Snail**  
*Trochulus (Trochulus) hispidus*



Obvious umbilicus  
Common in a variety of habitats.  
See also **30** (*Trochulus (Trochulus) striolatus*)


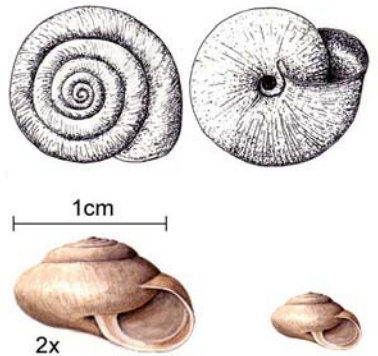
**Silky Snail**  
*Ashfordia granulata*



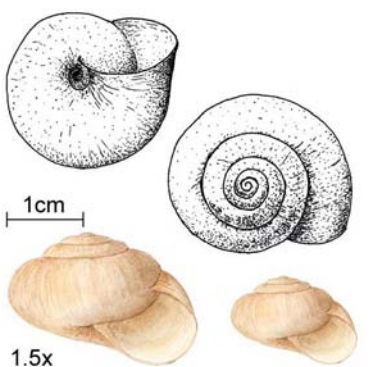
Very small umbilicus  
Damp, shady places.

**Warning:** hairs may wear off, check in the umbilicus. Juveniles of many species are hairy.

30

<p>Shell has dull keel with pale band just inside lip of shell. Adult shell usually greater than 10mm wide.</p> 	<p>.....</p>		<p align="center"><b>Strawberry Snail</b> <i>Trochulus (Trochulus) striolatus</i></p>  <p>Gardens, hedges, woodlands * hairy when young</p>
<p>Shell not like this</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p align="center"><b>31</b></p>	

31

<p>Shell colour white to transparent, pinkish tinge near mouth</p>	<p>.....</p>		<p align="center"><b>Kentish Snail</b> <i>Monacha (Monacha) cantiana</i></p>  <p>Not found in woodland</p>
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Shell colour not white to transparent, pinkish tinge near mouth	..... .....	32	
--	----------------	----	--

**GLOBULAR SHELLS 7-25 mm WIDE  
WITH NO DARKER BANDS OR DARK BLOTCHING**

**32**

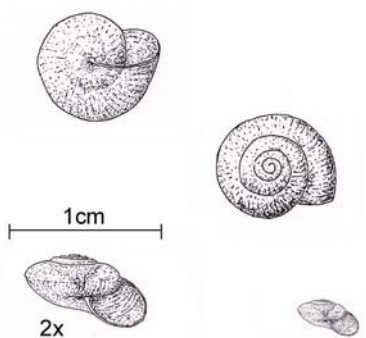
Shell flattened, glossy or waxy, obviously wider than tall	.....	Aegopinella & Oxychilus  See Table 1.	
Shell not this shape	.....	33	

**Table 1**

**Oxychilus and Aegopinella Characteristics**

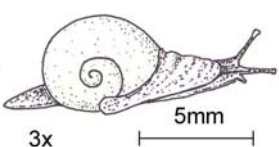

	<b>Adult Shell Width &amp; No. of Whorls</b>	<b>Spire</b>	<b>Shell colour</b>
Draparnaud's Snail <i>Oxychilus (Oxychilus)</i> <i>draparnaudi</i>	11-16 mm 5.5-6 whorls	very flattened	yellow-brown, slightly opaque, waxy
Cellar Snail <i>Oxychilus (Oxychilus)</i> <i>cellarius</i>	9-12 mm 5.5-6 whorls	very flattened	very pale, transparent, glossy
Glossy Glass Snail <i>Oxychilus (Oxychilus)</i> <i>navarricus</i> subsp. <i>helveticus</i>	8-10 mm 5 whorls	slightly raised	light brown, yellowish tinge, very glossy
Garlic Snail <i>Oxychilus (Oxychilus)</i> <i>alliaris</i>	6-8 mm 4-4.5 whorls	slightly raised	yellowish brown to greenish, almost transparent.
Smooth Glass Snail <i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>	8-10 mm 4.5 whorls	slightly raised	yellow-brown, waxy
Clear Glass Snail <i>Aegopinella pura</i>	3.5-4 mm 3.5 whorls	slightly raised	
Shiny Glass Snail <i>Zonitoides (Zonitoides)</i> <i>nitidus</i>	5-6 mm 4.5 whorls	raised, more than <i>Aegopinella</i> . Almost triangular cross-section	pale brown, transparent, shiny
Hollowed Glass Snail <i>Zonitoides (Zonitellus)</i> <i>excavatus</i>	6-7 mm 4.5 whorls	raised, more than <i>Aegopinella</i> . Almost triangular cross-section.	pale brown, translucent, glossy
Rayed Glass Snail <i>Nesovitrea (Perpolita)</i> <i>hammonis</i>	3.5-4 mm 3.5 whorls	slightly raised, rise more rounded than <i>Aegopinella</i>	pale brown, translucent with distinct striations

33

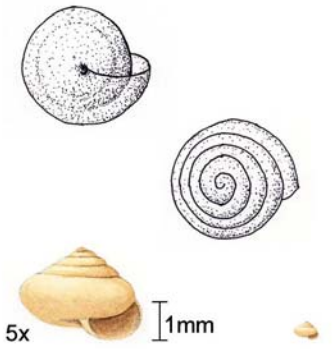
Shell less than 10mm	.....		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Dusky Snail</b> <i>Zenobiella subrufescens</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Damp wooded areas</p>
Shell more than 15 mm	.....	<b>27</b>	<i>Cepaea sp.</i>

**GLOBULAR SHELLS 3 – 7 mm WIDE**

34

Shell With rapidly expanding body whorl   <p style="text-align: center;">Live animal</p>	Pellucid Glass Snail <i>Vitrina pellucida</i> Live animal mostly seen in winter, mantle pale  Or  Greater Pellucid Glass Snail <i>Phenacolimax major</i> Live animal mostly seen in summer, mantle dark	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Pellucid Glass Snail</b> <i>Vitrina pellucida</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Variety of moist habitats</p>	
Shell more tightly coiled	.....	<b>35</b>	

35

Shell almost triangular	.....		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>a Tawny Glass Snail</b> <i>Euconulus fulvus agg.</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;">Various moist habitats</p>
Shell flattened	.....	<b>36</b>	

36

Shell with dark bands	.....	24	
Shell monotone	.....	Aegopinella & Oxychilus See Table 1.	

**GLOBULAR SHELLS LESS THAN 3 mm WIDE**

37

Shell with distinctly thickened lip	.....	38	
Shell with no lip	.....	41	

38

Shell with distinct ribbing	.....	39	
Shell with ribbing absent or indistinct	.....	40	

**GLOBULAR SHELLS LESS THAN 3 mm WIDE**

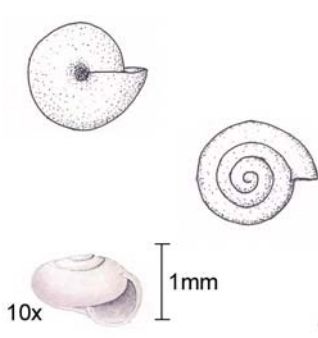
39

<p>Ribbed Grass Snail <i>Vallonia costata</i></p>
<p>Shell flattened Exposed calcareous places</p>

<p>Prickly Snail <i>Acanthinula aculeata</i></p>
<p>Shell more globular More sheltered habitats</p>

40

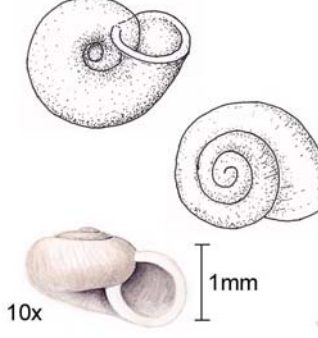
**Milky Crystal Snail**  
*Vitrea contracta*



10x 1mm

Shell white  
Dry calcareous areas

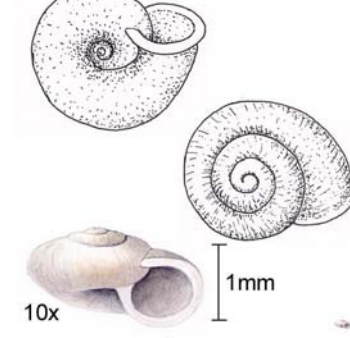
**Eccentric Grass Snail**  
*Vallonia cf. excentrica*



10x 1mm

Eccentric umbilicus.  
No protruding lip to mouth  
Open calcareous grassland

**a Smooth Grass Snail**  
*Vallonia pulchella* agg.

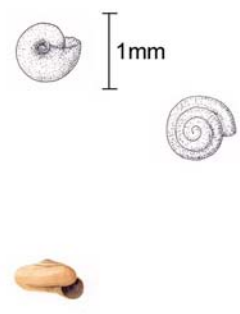


10x 1mm

Umbilicus not obviously eccentric  
Protruding lip to mouth  
Dry calcareous grassland

41


**Dwarf Snail**  
*Punctum (Punctum) pygmaeum*



1mm 10x

Shell brown, minute (less than 2mm wide)  
Moist places, woodland leaf litter & marshes

**Rock Snail**  
*Pyramidula pusilla*



1mm 10x

Shell brown (about 3mm wide) and heavily striated.  
Exposed rocky outcrops & walls

Please send any records to –

Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC)

[www.brerc.org.uk](http://www.brerc.org.uk)

BRERC  
Third Floor  
Bristol Central Library  
College Green  
Bristol  
BS1 5TL  
Tel: 0117 9349833  
Fax: 0117 9273918  
Email: [info@brerc.org.uk](mailto:info@brerc.org.uk)

(a record should contain 'what is it, 'where was it', 'when was it seen' and 'who saw it')

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BRERC cover the 'Avon' area of North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bristol, and Bath and North East Somerset.

BRERC receives funding and support from Bath and North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council, South Gloucestershire Council, Natural England, Environment Agency and Avon Wildlife Trust.