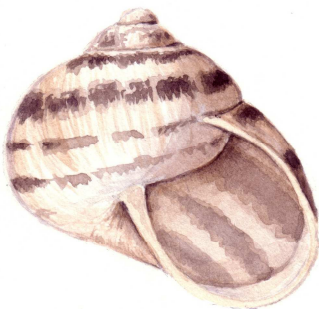




Bristol Regional Environmental  
Records Centre

# Key to the SNAILS of the Bristol Region

Andrew Daw  
Tessa Ivison



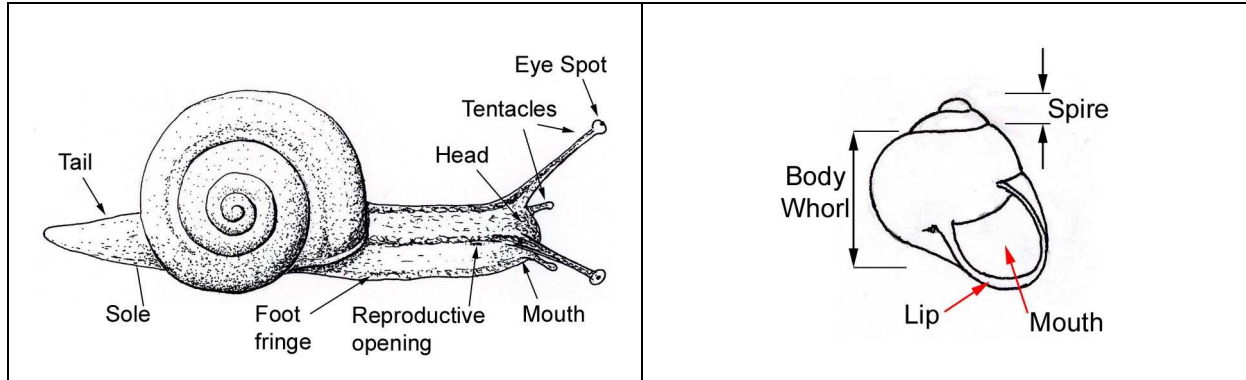
A.S.D.

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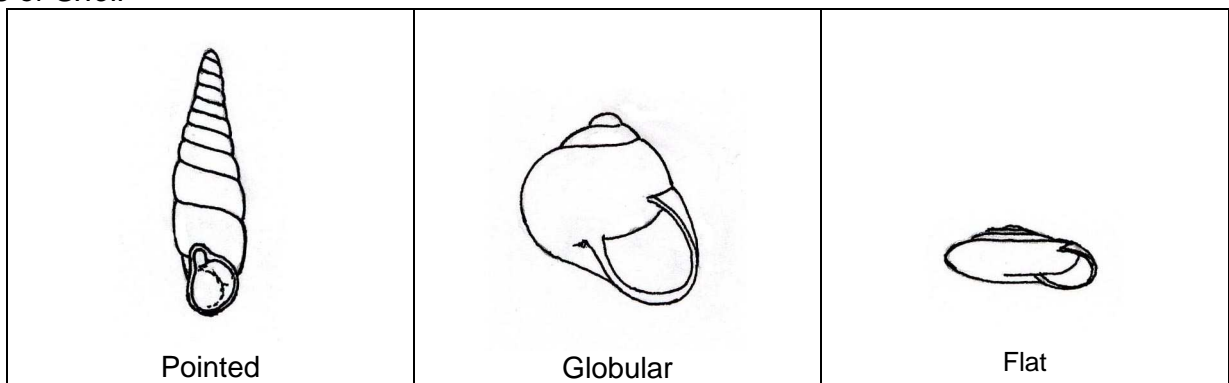
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# SNAILS of the Bristol Region

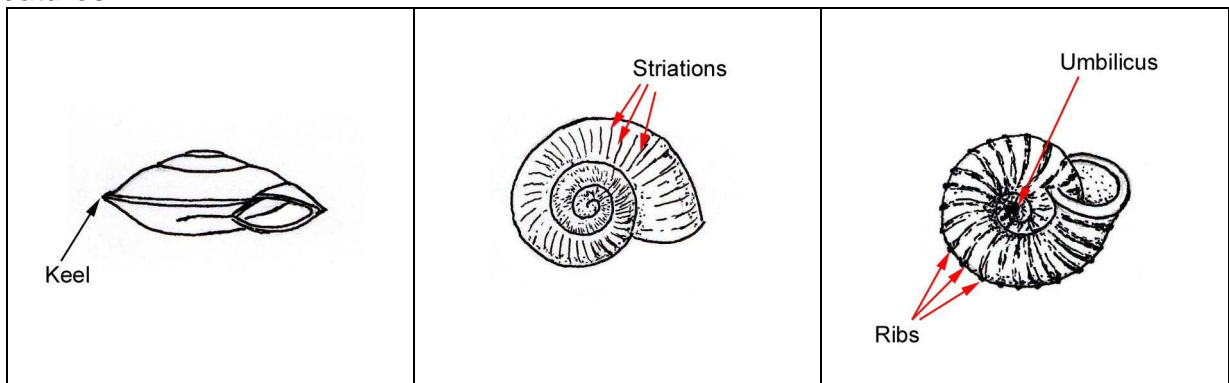
## External Characteristics



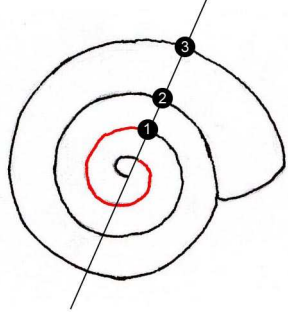
## Shapes of Shell

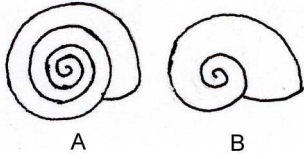


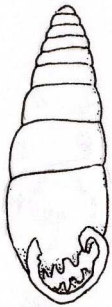
## Shell Features

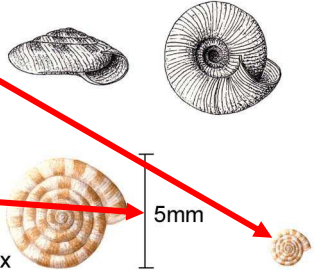


Shell Features

<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>	
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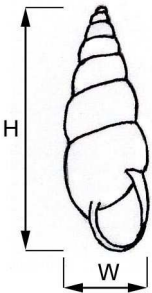
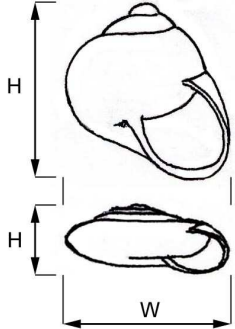
<p><b>Whorls</b></p>	<p>A = Slowly expanding (or tightly packed) whorls.</p> <p>B = Rapidly expanding whorls.</p>	
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<p><b>Teeth</b></p>	<p>Some species of snails have teeth-like features in the mouth of the shell.</p>	
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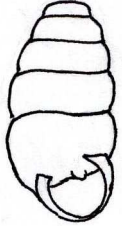
<p><b>Illustrations</b></p>	<p>Each set of illustrations for a snail will include a life-size representation of the snail in the bottom left hand corner.</p> <p>The other parts of the illustration will be shown at a scale indicated by a scale bar in cm or mm and a magnification (e.g. 3x).</p>	
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Key

1

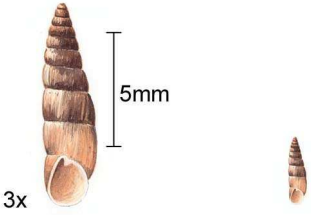
Height of shell greater than width.	.....	2	
Height of shell not greater than width.	.....	18	

2

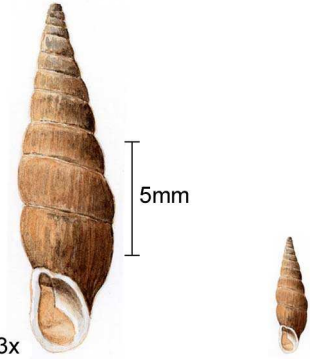
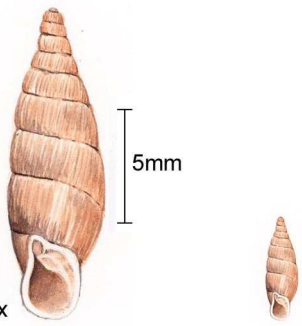
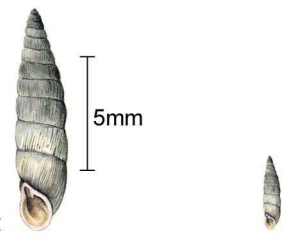
Mouth of shell to left (sinistral).	.....	3	
Mouth of shell to right (dextral).	.....	5	

## TALL, THIN, LEFT SIDED SHELLS

3



Teeth absent.	.....		<p style="text-align: center;">Tree Snail <i>Balea 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 bidentata</i>
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
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

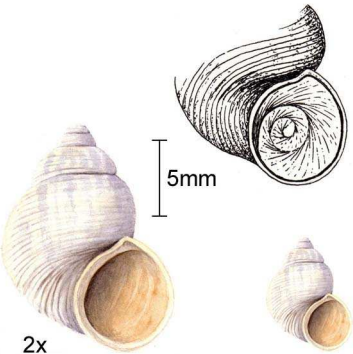
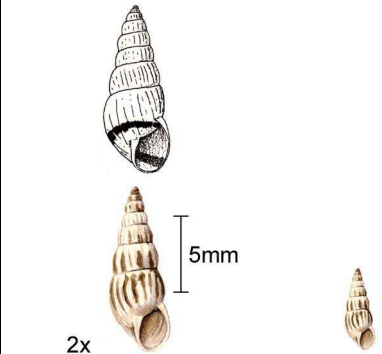
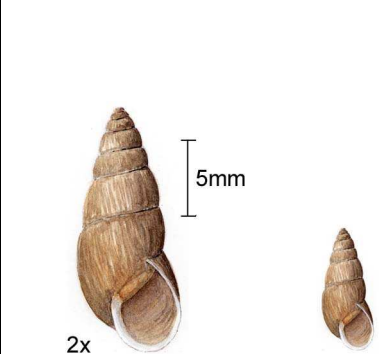
Height greater than 10 mm.	.....	6	
Height between 4 -10 mm.	.....	9	
Height up to 4 mm.	.....	13	

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


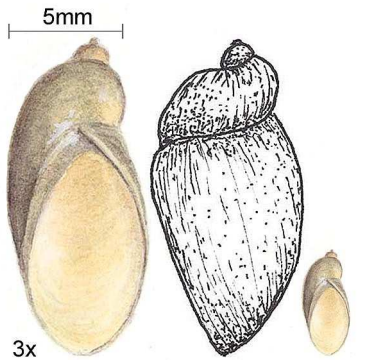

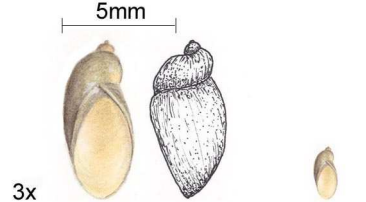
6

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

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

8

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

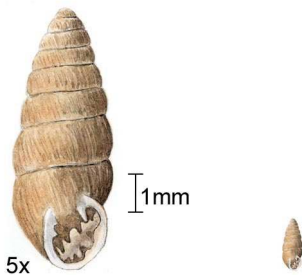
**TALL, THIN, RIGHT SIDED SHELLS 4-10 mm TALL**

9

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

10

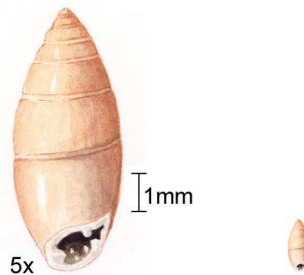
**Large Chrysalis Snail**  
*Abida secale*



5x      1mm

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

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



5x      1mm

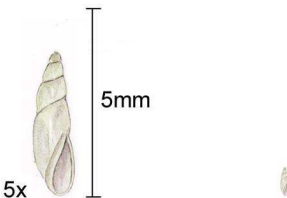
Shell thin & glossy, brown or white.  
Shell pattern variable.  
Leaf litter in woodlands.

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**  
*Ceciloides acicula*

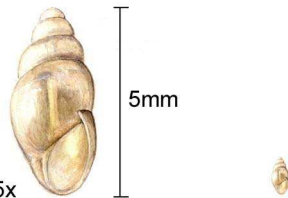


5x      5mm

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

**Slippery Snail**  
*Cochlicopa lubrica*  
or  
**Least Slippery Snail**  
*Cochlicopa lubricella*

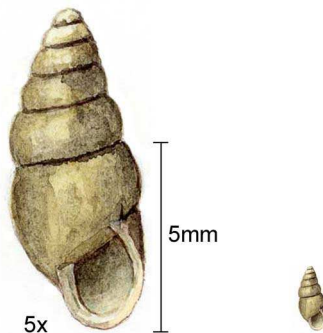
Illustrated: *Cochlicopa lubrica*



5x      5mm

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

**Lesser Bulin**  
*Ena 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

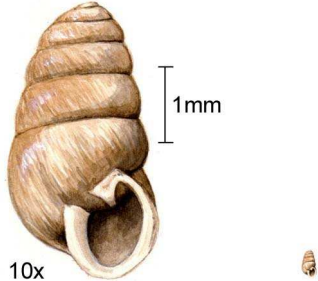
Mouth with one or no teeth.	.....	14	
Mouth with more than one tooth.	.....	17	

14

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

15

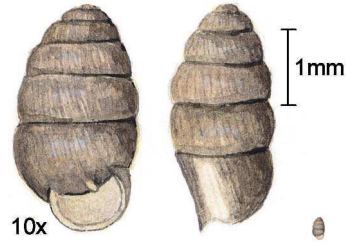
**Chrysalis Snail**  
*Lauria cylindracea*



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 muscorum*

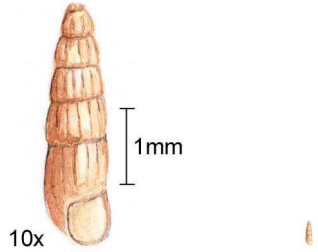


10x

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

16

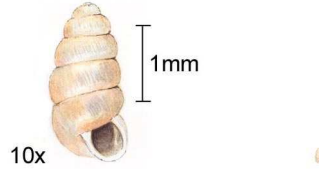
**Point Snail**  
*Acicula fusca*



10x

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

**Chrysalis Snails**  
*Columella* sp.



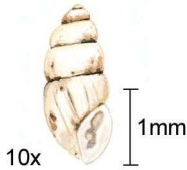
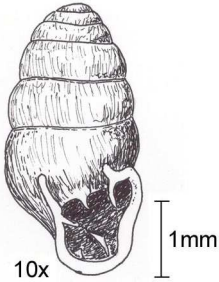
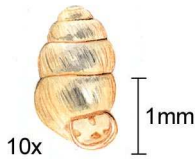
10x

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



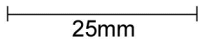
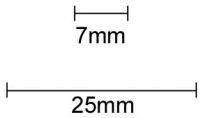


## TALL, THIN RIGHT SIDED SHELLS LESS THAN 4 mm TALL

17

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

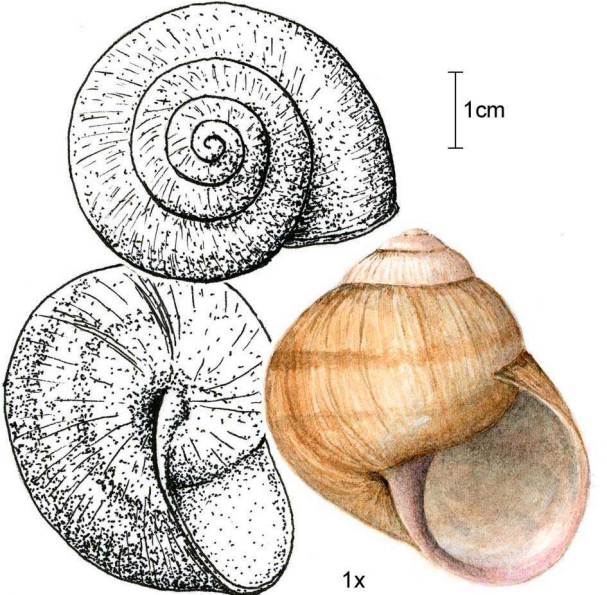

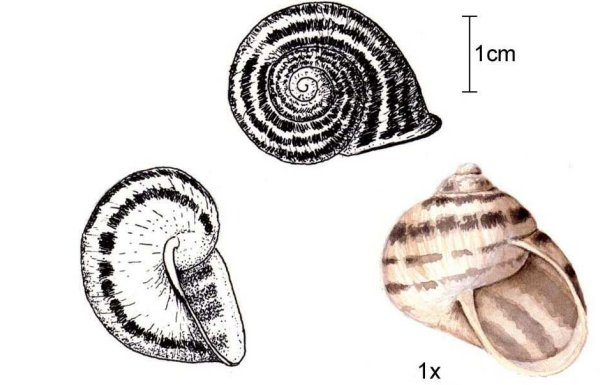
## SHELL GLOBULAR OR FLAT IN SHAPE

18

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

**WIDTH OF SHELL GREATER THAN 25 mm**

19

<p>Shell creamy yellow.</p>	<p>.....</p>		<p>Roman Snail <i>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>Garden Snail <i>Helix aspersa</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

Lapidary Snail  
*Helicigona lapicida*

1cm

2x

Large umbilicus.  
Rocky ground & stone walls in calcareous areas.

Girdled Snail  
*Hygromia cinctella*

1cm

2x

Small umbilicus.  
Woods, hedgerows, orchards & gardens.

- note size difference and relative umbilicus size
- see also **24** (*Candidula*) and **30** (*Trichia striolata*)

22

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

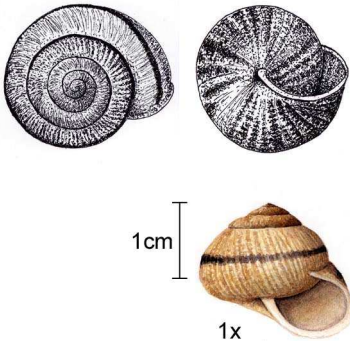
23

Shell with flecking or blotching with or without dark spiral band.	.....	24	
Shell with dark spiral bands but no flecking or blotching.	.....	25	

**WIDTH OF SHELL 7-25 mm**

24

**Copse Snail**  
*Arianta arbustorum*

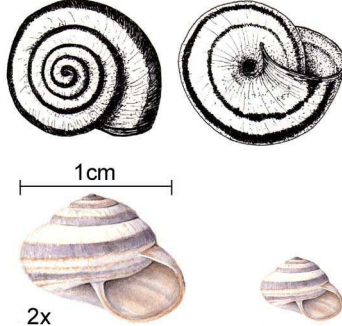


1cm  
1x

Shell globular and may have blotches.  
May be confused with **19** (Garden Snail), note presence of umbilicus here.  
Moist habitats.

**Wrinkled Snail & Eccentric Snail**  
*Candidula intersecta* &  
*Candidula gigaxii*

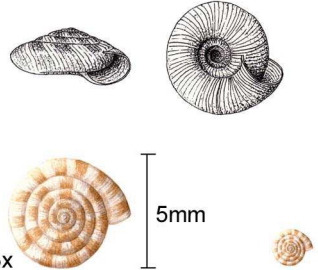
Illustration: *Candidula intersecta*



1cm  
2x

The amount of stripes on the shell can be variable, or absent.  
Height of shell less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of width.  
Shell spire flattened with *Candidula gigaxii*.  
Calcareous areas.  
Consider young specimens of **26** (*C. virgata*).

**Rounded Snail**  
*Discus rotundatus*



5mm  
3x

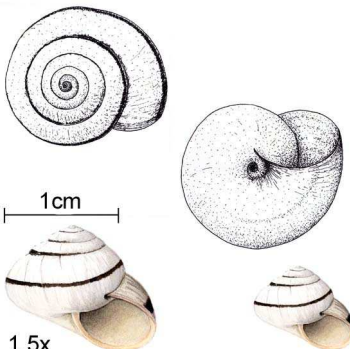
Shell flattened, very large umbilicus.  
Moist areas.

25

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

26

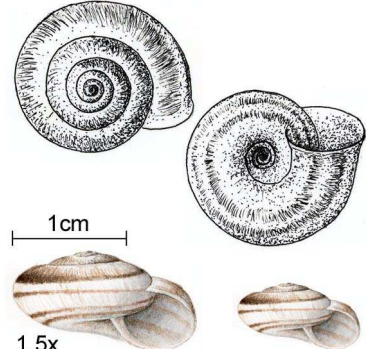
**Banded Snail**  
*Ceruella virgata*



1cm  
1.5x

Shell globular, spire raised (height at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of width), and umbilicus small.  
The amount of stripes on the shell can be variable, or absent.  
Dry, exposed calcareous areas.

**Heath Snail**  
*Helicella itala*


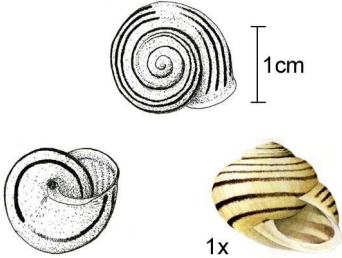

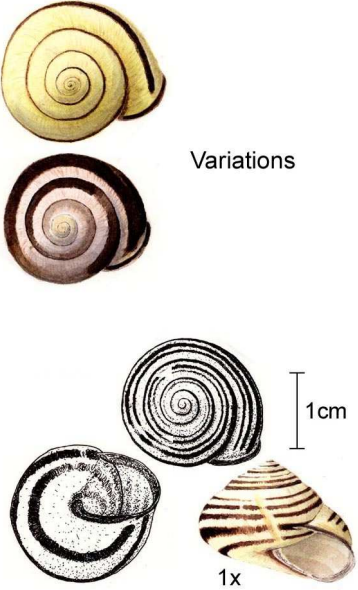


1cm  
1.5x

Flattened on top, large umbilicus.  
Dry, exposed calcareous areas.

**WIDTH OF SHELL 7-25 mm**

27

<p>Shell with white lip.</p> 	<p>.....</p>		<p align="center">White-lipped Snail <i>Cepaea hortensis</i></p> 
<p>Shell with brown lip.</p> 	<p>.....</p>		<p align="center">Brown-lipped Snail <i>Cepaea nemoralis</i></p>  <p>*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 BLOTTCHING**

28

<p>Shell hairy.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>Warning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hairs may wear off adults</li> <li>• juveniles of several species are hairy</li> </ul>
<p>Shell not hairy.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>30</p>	

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

29

<p>Hairy Snail <i>Trichia hispida</i></p>
<p>Obvious umbilicus. Common in a variety of habitats. See also <b>30</b> (<i>Trichia striolata</i>).</p>

<p>Silky Snail <i>Ashfordia granulata</i></p>
<p>Very small umbilicus. Damp, shady places.</p>

**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>.....</p>	<p align="center"><b>Strawberry Snail</b> <i>Trichia striolata</i></p> <p align="center">2x</p> <p>Gardens, hedges, woodlands. * hairy when young</p>
<p>Shell not like this.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p align="center"><b>31</b></p>	<p>.....</p>

31

<p>Shell colour white to transparent, pinkish tinge near mouth.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p align="center"><b>Kentish Snail</b> <i>Monacha cantiana</i></p> <p align="center">1.5x</p> <p align="center">Not found in woodland</p>
<p>Shell colour not like this.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p align="center"><b>32</b></p>	<p>.....</p>

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

**32**

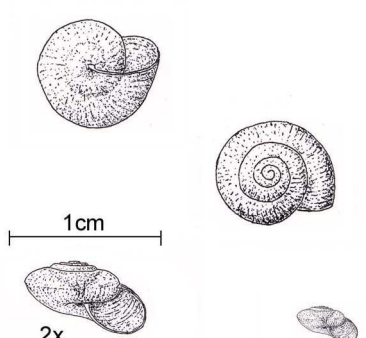
Shell flattened, glossy or waxy, obviously wider than tall.	.....	<i>Aegopinella</i> & <i>Oxychilus</i>	
		See Table 1.	
Shell not this shape.	.....	33	

**Table 1**

***Oxychilus* and *Aegopinella* Characteristics**

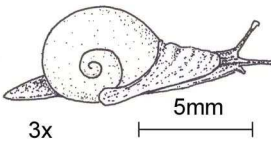
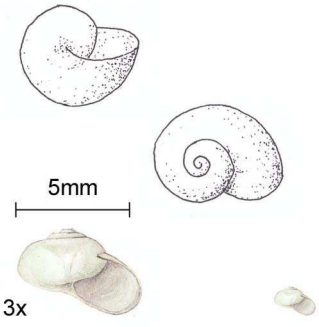
	Adult Shell Width & No. of Whorls	Spire	Shell colour
Draparnaud's Snail <i>Oxychilus draparnaudi</i>	11-16 mm 5.5-6 whorls	very flattened	yellow-brown, slightly opaque, waxy
Cellar Snail <i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	9-12 mm 5.5-6 whorls	very flattened	very pale, transparent, glossy
Glossy Glass Snail <i>Oxychilus helveticus</i>	8-10 mm 5 whorls	slightly raised	light brown, yellowish tinge, very glossy
Garlic Snail <i>Oxychilus allarius</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 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 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 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**

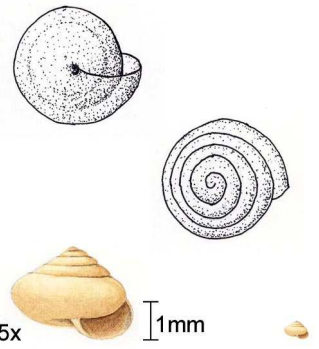
Shell less than 10mm.	.....		<p>Dusky Snail <i>Perforatella subrufescens</i></p> 
			Damp wooded areas.
Shell more than 15 mm.	.....	27	<i>Cepaea</i> sp.

## GLOBULAR SHELLS 3 – 7 mm WIDE

34

<p>Shell with rapidly expanding body whorl.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>3x      5mm</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Live animal</p>	<p><i>Vitrina pellucida</i> Live animal mostly seen in winter, mantle pale.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p><i>Phenacolimax major</i> Live animal mostly seen in summer, mantle dark.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Vitrina pellucida</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>5mm</p> <p>3x</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Variety of moist habitats.</p>	
<p>Shell more tightly coiled.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>35</p>	

35

<p>Shell almost triangular.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tawny Glass Snail</b> <i>Euconulus fulvus</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>5x      1mm</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Various moist habitats.</p>	
<p>Shell flattened.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>36</p>	

36

<p>Shell with dark bands.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>24</p>	
<p>Shell monotone.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p><i>Aegopinella &amp; Oxychilus</i></p> <p>See Table 1.</p>	

## GLOBULAR SHELLS LESS THAN 3 mm WIDE

37

<p>Shell with distinctly thickened lip.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>38</p>	
<p>Shell with no lip.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>41</p>	

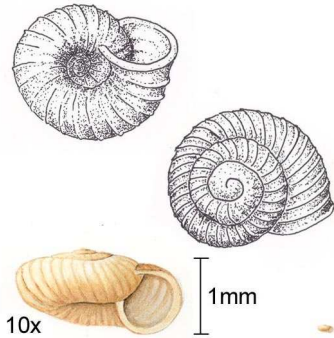
38

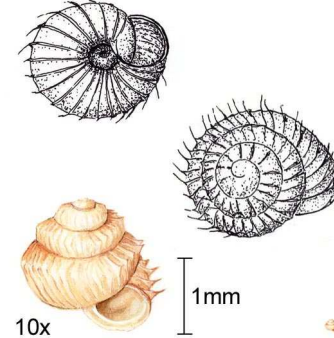
<p>Shell with distinct ribbing.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>39</p>	
<p>Shell with ribbing absent or indistinct.</p>	<p>.....</p>	<p>40</p>	



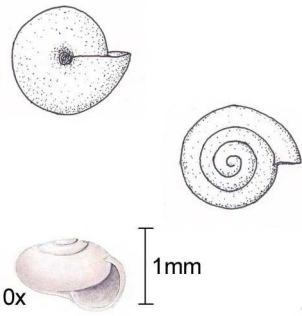
## GLOBULAR SHELLS LESS THAN 3 mm WIDE

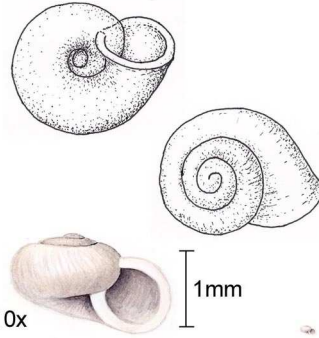
# 39

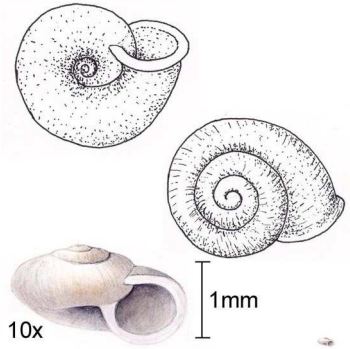
Ribbed Grass Snail <i>Vallonia costata</i>

Shell flattened. Exposed calcareous places.

Prickly Snail <i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>

Shell more globular. More sheltered habitats.

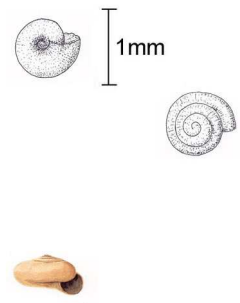
# 40

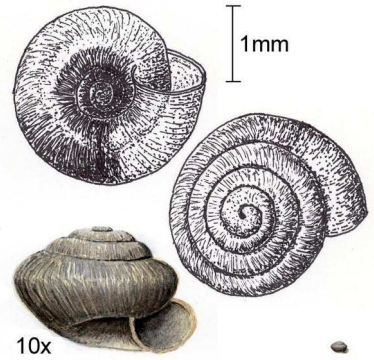
Milky Crystal Snail <i>Vitrea contractor</i>

Shell white. Dry calcareous areas.

Eccentric Grass Snail <i>Vallonia excentrica</i>

Eccentric umbilicus. No protruding lip to mouth. Open calcareous grassland.

Smooth Grass Snail <i>Vallonia pulchella</i>

Umbilicus not obviously eccentric. Protruding lip to mouth. Dry calcareous grassland.

# 41

Dwarf Snail <i>Punctum pygmaeum</i>

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

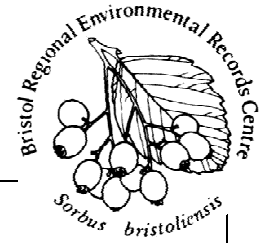
Rock Snail <i>Pyramidula rupestris</i>

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

**Please send any records to**

BRERC, St Nicholas Church, St Nicholas Street, Bristol BS1 1UE or email them to [records@brerc.org.uk](mailto:records@brerc.org.uk). Thank you!

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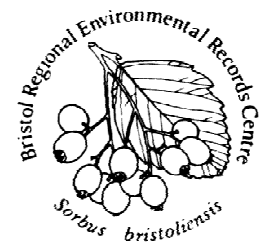
<b>Your name:</b>	<b>Your contact address*:</b> We need your contact details so we can verify the record with you if necessary. All personal information is treated as confidential, and is held in compliance with the Data Protection Act.	<b>Your e-mail address:</b>  <b>Your telephone number:</b>
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Species name (What did you see?)	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)  (When did you see it?)	Grid reference (If possible)	Location (Where exactly did you see it?)  Please give a full description of the location including road, house, park, river/stream names etc. Even a sketch map overleaf will help us pin point the location and assign an accurate grid reference.	Number	Any other information?  e.g. male, female, adult, nesting, juvenile, larva, pupa, egg, tadpole, dead, killed on road, in flower, in fruit/seed, netted, in or under water, field record etc.

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**Locality (Where exactly did you see it?)**  
Please give a full description of the location including road, house, park, river/stream names etc. Even a sketch map overleaf will help us pin point the location and assign a grid reference.  
If you have visited more than one location, please use a separate form for each location.

Species name (What did you see?)	Date (DD/MM/YYYY) (When did you see it?)	Grid reference (If possible)	Number recorded (How many did you see?)	Any other information? <small>e.g. male, female, adult, nesting, juvenile, larva, pupa, egg, tadpole, dead, killed on road, in flower, in fruit/seed, netted, in or under water, field record.</small>

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