

# COMMON LAND SNAILS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST

## Does the snail have...

- **no** central pit on its underside
- distinct dark spiral bands (sometimes missing or faint) *and*
- a purplish brown apertural lip (outer edge of the shell opening)?

No central pit



Apertural lip



Wide range of colours



### Grovesnail

*Cepaea nemoralis*

**Non-native species**

- Shell has wide range of colours such as brown, orange or yellow.
- Non-native snail originally from Europe.
- Commonly found in gardens and more urban areas.

Photos: Pamela Zevit

- a deep central pit on its underside
- a usually chestnut-brown shell (sometimes straw-yellow with faint banding) *and*
- a distinct banding pattern, with dark brown bands below each whorl and a yellow band near the bottom of the shell?

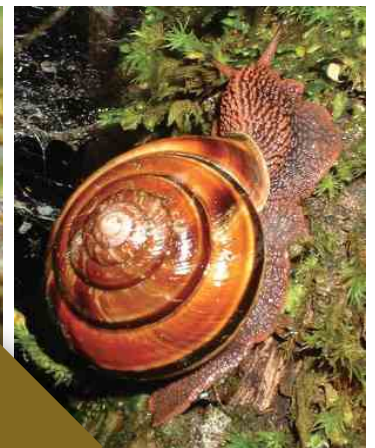
Deep central pit



Distinct banding pattern



Sometimes found on tree trunks



Photos: Pamela Zevit

### Pacific Sideband

*Monadenia fidelis*

- Largest land snail in BC.
- Lives in deciduous, coniferous or mixed forests, but can also be found in grassy areas.
- Can be found as high as 7 meters up trees.

- a deep central pit on its underside
- a brown or yellow-brown shell with a sometimes bleached appearance *and*
- a **thick**, white and flared apertural lip?

Deep central pit



Thick, white and flared apertural lip



Photo: Gord Gadsden

Shells can have bleached appearance



### Oregon Forestsnail

*Allogona townsendiana*

**Species at Risk**

- Only found in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley.
- Lives in moist lower elevation deciduous forests with dominant bigleaf maple trees.
- Often found in patches of stinging nettle.

The Pacific Sideband's body is a deep pink, dark orange or burgundy colour, while the Oregon Forestsnail is light tan.

# COMMON LAND SNAILS OF BC'S SOUTH COAST - *continued*

## Does the snail have...

- a deep central pit on its underside
- a flat shape, with dull or slightly shiny appearance *and*
- well-defined axial riblets?



Axial riblets



Photos: Pamela Zevit

### Lancetooth

*Ancotrema sp.*

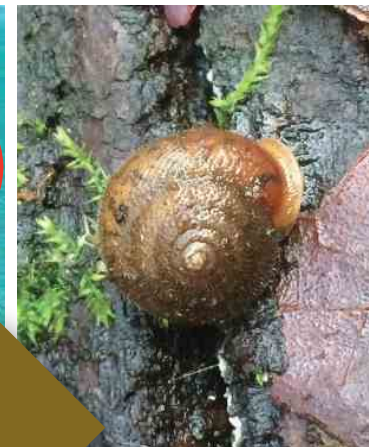
- An omnivore whose prey can include worms, slugs and snails.
- Lives mostly in forests.
- Found under dead wood, logs, soft soil, vegetation and leaf litter.

- a central pit on its underside
- a small yellowish-brown coloured shell
- tiny dense hairs (often missing or hard to see on older snails) *and*
- a thin, flared apertural lip?

Thin, flared apertural lip



Covered in tiny hairs



### Northwest Hesperian

*Vespericola columbianus*

- Found primarily in moist forests, but also in the seaside under driftwood.
- Can live at higher elevations up to the subalpine level.

Typical Adult Size (to scale)

Northern Hesperian 10-17 mm



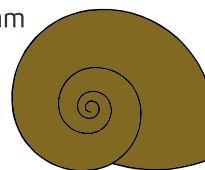
Lancetooth 9-32 mm



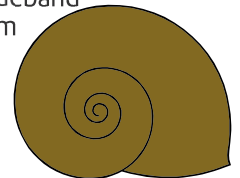
Grovesnail 20-25 mm



Oregon Forestsnail 23-30 mm



Pacific Sideband 22-36 mm



Snails are most active when the ground is moist and temperatures are moderate. Look for them after the Spring thaw but before the hot summer starts, and again in the Fall.

This guide should help identify the most commonly found land snails on BC's South Coast. Additional species do exist. For information on land snails and additional help identifying species, contact [outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca](mailto:outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca)



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