

## Virginia Land Snails

### *Ventridens theloides* (Walker and Pilsbry, 1902)

Family: Gastrodontiidae

Common name: Copper Dome

#### Identification

Width: 7.5-8 mm

Height: 4.5-5 mm

Whorls: 7+

*Ventridens theloides* has a glossy, dome-shaped shell. Its whorls are narrow and closely-coiled, strongly sculptured with radial striae on the top. The striae continue onto the slightly concave base, where they are faintly visible. The umbilicus is open but very narrow. The basal lip is straight, creating a triangular-shaped aperture that does not contain teeth but is lined with a thick rim on the inside. Dourson (2010) notes that this is a characteristic of younger shells. The animal is pale-colored.

#### Ecology

Like *Ventridens pilsbryi*, *V. theloides* prefers leaf litter and logs on wooded slopes. It is also found on floodplains (Dourson, 2010). Though their habitats are similar, *V. pilsbryi* and *V. theloides* are rarely found together (Hubricht, 1985).

#### Taxonomy

Synonyms for *V. theloides* include *Ventridens gularis* form *nodus*, *V. gularis theloides*, *V. nodus*, and *Zonitoides (Ventridens) theloides*.

#### Distribution

*Ventridens theloides* is a native of the southeastern Appalachian states, ranging from West Virginia in the north, to Alabama in the south. In Virginia this animal is found in some of the far southwestern counties.

NatureServe Global Rank: G4G5

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Photo(s): Views of a *Ventridens theloides* shell by Dan Dourson ©.

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#### Range Map

