

CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Land Snails and Slugs of the Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern United States

[Home](#) [Northeast Species](#) [States](#) [Image Gallery](#) [Land Snail Ecology](#) [Resources](#) [Contact](#)

Land Snails

Mesomphix luisant (Dourson, 2015)

Family: Zonitidae

Common name: Glossy Button

Identification

Width: 22-26 mm

Height: 14-19 mm

Whorls: 5

Spiral rows of papillae are a consistent feature of this newly described species' shell, especially on the final whorl. The shell is heliciform, colored light brown often with darker streaks. The top of the shell is dull-glossy while the base is more polished. Engraved spiral striae are the strongest near the suture lines. Transverse striae are moderately developed - more pronounced than in *M. cupreus* but less than in *M. vulgatus*.

Ecology

This species appears to be restricted to rich hillsides below and amid limestone bluffs along the Greenbrier River, Greenbrier County, West Virginia and possibly along Huff Creek., Logan County, West Virginia.

Mesomphix luisant is endemic to West Virginia.

Taxonomy

Mesomphix luisant is smaller and more globose than *M. capnodes*, with a slightly larger umbilicus and a glossier shell, especially at the base. It differs from *M. cupreus* in its well-developed spiral papillae on the final whorl and smaller umbilicus. Its name is derived from the French word meaning glossy, shining or gleaming.

Distribution

Currently, only known from Greenbrier County and possibly Logan County, West Virginia. Future surveys may reveal additional county records.

Conservation

NatureServe Global Rank: Not yet ranked; G1 recommended. NatureServe State Rank: West Virginia, S1. This newly-described species may be imperiled due to its apparent rarity.

Dan Dourson 5/2017



Photo(s): Views of a Mesomphix luisant shell

Click photo(s) to enlarge.



[Return to Mollusks at Carnegie Museum of Natural History | One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh](#)