

Virginia Land Snails

Anguispira fergusonii (Bland, 1861)

Family: Discidae

Common name: Coastal Plain Disk

Identification

Width: 15-18 mm

Height: 8-10 mm

Whorls: 5+

The shell of this snail is flattened heliciform with strong radial ridges and an open umbilicus, as in many of the species in its family. The color pattern upon its shell is spaced, radial, irregular spots - like *Anguispira alternata* but more colorful, with smaller, more distinct reddish patches on a yellowish background. It also differs in having whorls that are rounder and mucus that is clear. Larger shells may be darker in color.

Ecology

Anguispira fergusonii is found in woods and other coastal habitats in eastern Virginia. It may ascend lower tree trunks on damp nights. Örstan (2009) monitored five individuals in Montgomery County, Maryland that were dormant beneath the soil surface, from late November until warm weather in late March when they emerged. Slapcinksy (pers obs) notes that *A. fergusonii* colonies can be large at senescent trees with trunk cavities.

Taxonomy

Synonyms are: *Anguispira alternata fergusonii*, *Helix alternata fergusonii*.

Distribution

This animal is an Atlantic Coastal species, with a range from southern New York to South Carolina. In Virginia it found along the coast and near rivers in the Piedmont, but is reported as far west as Pittsylvania County along the southern border.

NatureServe Global Rank: G4

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Ken Hotopp 7/2012

Range Map



Photo(s): Views of an *Anguispira fergusonii* shell by Jochen Gerber ©.

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