

## Virginia Land Snails

### *Euchemotrema fraternum* (Say, 1824)

Family: Polygyridae  
Common name: Upland Pillsnail

#### Identification

Width: 9.0 -10.5 mm  
Height: 5-7 mm  
Whorls: 5+

*Euchemotrema fraternum* is well-protected against predators, with a thick, round-ish, crush-resistant shell, and a narrow aperture. The shell is covered with fine bristles that may help to camouflage it with a dull, non-reflective texture, and by trapping dust and cobwebs. The aperture holds a single blade-like tooth, or lamella. The reflected lip nearly covers the umbilicus.

#### Ecology

This animal inhabits relatively higher sites than its close relative *Euchemotrema leai*. It is a good climber for its small size, sometimes found on maple or beech trunks. It is most often encountered in leaf litter and log debris, and usually at low densities.

#### Taxonomy

*Euchemotrema fraternum* has also been known as *Helix fraterna*, *H. convexa*, *H. monodon*, *Polygyra fraterna*, *P. f. var. albida*, *P. monodon fraternal*, and *S. monodon*.

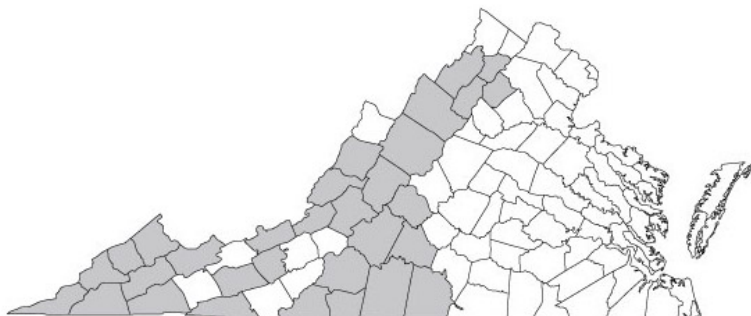
#### Distribution

*Euchemotrema fraternum* occurs from the Midwest and Middle Atlantic states, north to Minnesota and the Canadian Maritimes and south to Louisiana and Mississippi (Hubricht, 1985). In Virginia it is found in western and northern counties.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5  
NatureServe State Rank: S4

Ken Hotopp, Meegan Winslow 8/2012

#### Range Map



Photo(s): *Euchemotrema fraternum* has a stout, "fuzzy" shell, by Larry Watrous ©.

[Click photo\(s\) to enlarge.](#)

