

## Virginia Land Snails

### *Gastrocopta procera* (Gould, 1840)

Family: Vertiginidae

#### Identification

Height: ~2.5 mm

Width: ~1.1 mm

Whorls: 5

This species has a narrow, dark brown shell. It has an angulo-parietal lamella in the top of the aperture with a prominent angular lobe, and a deeply inserted lower palatal lamella. The long axis of this palatal lamella runs parallel to the lower margin of the aperture.

#### Ecology

*Gastrocopta procera* is an obligate calciphile (limited to calcium-rich habitats) that occurs under stones, in thatch, and in leaf litter accumulations on scrub-covered and exposed sites, such as bedrock glades, dry prairie, and roadside verges. It also occurs in sandy river floodplain scrub and forest (Nekola & Coles, 2010).

#### Taxonomy

A synonym for this animal's name is *Pupa procera*.

#### Distribution

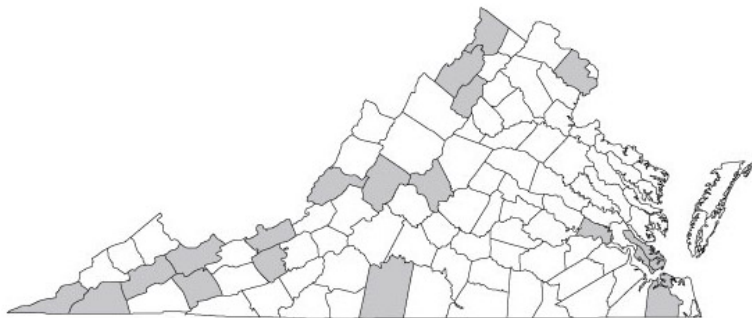
This animal ranges from west Texas and far northeastern New Mexico north to western Wisconsin and east to northern Florida and eastern New York State (Nekola & Coles, 2010). In Virginia this species has been reported from most of the state. It is unclear whether its apparent absence from the Piedmont is related to a lack of calcium-rich habitats in that region, or is simply due to under-reporting.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5

NatureServe State Rank: S4

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#### Range Map



Photo(s): *Gastrocopta procera* shell by Jeff Nekola ©.

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