

Virginia Land Snails

Millerelix plicata (Say, 1821)

Family: Polygyridae
Common name: Cumberland Liptooth

Identification

Width: 5.5-5.7 mm
Height: 2.8-3.1 mm
Whorls: 5+

This animal's shell is striking for its heavily-guarded aperture. The shell is a flattened heliciform shape, with a wide lip that is deflected toward the base (Pilsbry, 1940). The lip is contiguous with a strong parietal tooth, nearly filling the aperture. There are two irregularly-shaped teeth set within the outer lip. The umbilicus in early stages is perforate, but expands widely in the final whorl. The shell is sculptured with rib-striae and a few "hairs" behind the lip and in the umbilicus.

Ecology

This land snail is a calcium-lover found in leaf litter on dry wooded slopes and cedar glades (Hubricht, 1985). In Tennessee this species diverged from parts of Hubricht's habitat characterization – it was significantly associated with leaf litter habitat, very steep slopes, and oak-poplar stands (Coney et al, 1982). Its numbers increased with increasing soil moisture, slope and soil pH, and there was an affinity for rich, old forest.

Taxonomy

Synonyms for *Millerelix plicata* include *Daedalochila plicata* and *Polygyra plicata*.

Distribution

Daedalochila plicata is an east-side snail of the southern Appalachians, found from Alabama and Georgia north to southern Ohio (Hubricht, 1985). In Virginia it is reported only from Lee County in the far southwest.

NatureServe Global Rank: G4
NatureServe State Rank: S1S3
Virginia's wildlife action plan: Tier III

Ken Hotopp 12/2012

Range Map



Photo(s): *Daedalochila plicata* has a unique peristome that follows the parietal lamella. Image by Dan Dourson ©.

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