

Virginia Land Snails

Neohelix dentifera (A. Binney, 1837)

Family: Polygyridae

Common name: Big-tooth Whitelip

Identification

Width: 20-28 mm

Height: 11-17 mm

Whorls: 5+

This large heliciform snail is somewhat flattened. It has a widely reflected lip with a callus that also covers its umbilicus, and a single parietal tooth. It is more flattened than *Neohelix albolabris*, and often more brown-colored. It, too, has a shell finely textured with radial ridges and grooves. The animal is grayish to light brown, with dark antennae.

Ecology

Neohelix dentifera occurs in upland forests, especially damp, rocky habitats on slopes near streams or periglacial talus. It prefers acidic soils (Hubricht, 1985) and may be found on hillsides or in coves beneath rhododendron "hells".

Taxonomy

Synonyms for *N. dentifera* include: *Helix dentifera*, *Mesodon dentifera*, *M. dentiferus*, *Polygyra dentifera*, and *Triodopsis dentifera*.

Distribution

Neohelix dentifera is an Appalachian Mountain forest animal found inland from southeastern Canada and Maine to North Carolina. It does not extend into Ohio or the Midwest. In Virginia it occurs in the western counties

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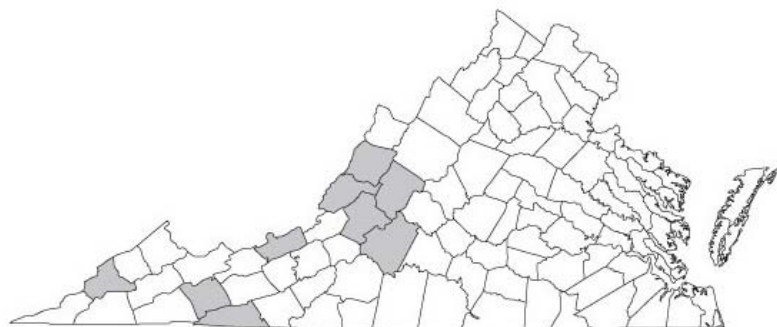
Ken Hotopp, Meegan Winslow 11/2012



Photo(s): *Neohelix dentifera* live and shell by Ken Hotopp ©.

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Range Map





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