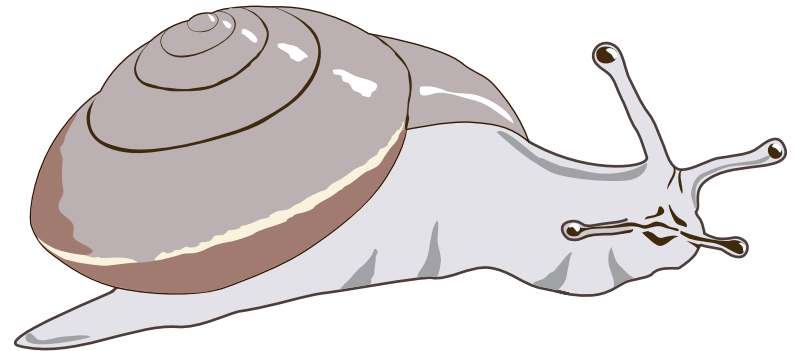


SNAIL SEARCH



RETURNING YOUR RESULTS

- 1) Fill in your results in the box below, even if you didn't find any alien snails.
- 2) Visit the snail search website www.scan-online.org and follow the instructions to double-check your results.
- 3) Post your results on-line or alternatively post them to the address below.
- 4) View the snail maps & charts on-line as the results come in and look up your name on our thank you pages.

If you find an alien please follow the snail mail instructions below:

- 1) Museum Scientists need to check if you have identified your 'alien' snails correctly. Therefore, we would be very grateful if you could post us an EMPTY 'alien' snail shell, together with the results you have recorded on this sheet.
- 2) Wrap the shell in tissue or kitchen paper and place in a suitably small container such as a small margarine tub, matchbox or a film holder.
- 3) Place container in an envelope marked **HANDLE WITH CARE** - and post to:

SNAIL SEARCH 2003
Porters Lodge
National Museum & Gallery Cardiff
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NP



We will write back to let you know if you have accurately identified the 'alien' snail and whether your record is the first of its kind in your county! Thanks for all your help and please keep up the good work!

E-mail any questions to danielle.cowell@nmgw.ac.uk or call (029) 20573304.

Name:	Please put a tick beside the names of the snails that you identified.	
Address:	Common Garden Snail	
	Banded Garden Snail	
	Glass Snail	
Postcode:	Strawberry Snail	
Telephone No:	'Alien' Girdled Snail	
E-mail:		
The date I looked for snails in my garden:		

SCAN

Schools & Communities Agenda 21 Network

SNAIL SEARCH

DO YOU HAVE 'ALIEN INVADERS' LIVING IN YOUR BACKYARD?



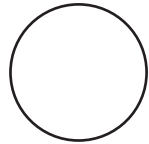
Help us to track down the mini-beasts living in your backyard!

Museum scientists are trying to track down an 'alien invader' that could be living in your backyard. The alien is not from outer space, it is actually a snail, but it is an 'alien' species to Britain. Scientists use the term 'alien' to describe an animal or plant that does not occur naturally within a country. In this case, the 'alien' is the girdled snail that originates from the sunny Mediterranean. It was first spotted in the 1950's, in Devon, and has since been seen in other areas of Britain. The 'alien' was probably introduced accidentally, having possibly sailed across the channel amongst some garden plants.

By tracking its whereabouts our scientists hope to find out what effect global warming (changing temperatures) could be having on the mini-beasts that live in our gardens.

So, where can it be found today? Use this sheet to identify the different snails living in your backyard and help us map the whereabouts of the 'alien' snail. Search carefully because some snails are very small and can hide amongst rotting leaves, beneath logs, under garden pots and in tiny gaps.

1 Is your snail smaller than this circle?



Yes Go to **3**
No Go to **2**

2 Does your snail look like one of these?

This is a **COMMON GARDEN SNAIL**.
(Latin name: *Helix aspersa*)
Colour: Light brown / yellow with blotchy markings. The opening of the shell where the snail comes out is often white.



This is a **BANDED GARDEN SNAIL**.
(Latin name: *Cepaea* species)
Colour: Pale yellow / yellow, brown or pink. It usually has between 1 and 5 neat spiral lines that look as if they have been painted on, although sometimes it doesn't have any lines.



3 Does your snail have a very shiny shell?

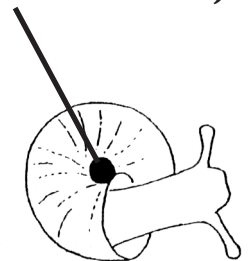
Yes This is a **GLASS SNAIL**.
(Latin name: *Oxychilus* species)
Glass snails have very thin shiny shells. Sometimes so thin, you can see through them! This is why they are called glass snails.



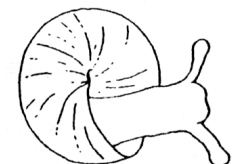
No Go to **4**

4 Look at your snail's 'belly button' (on the underside of the shell). Is it just about the size of a pencil tip?

Yes This is a **STRAWBERRY SNAIL**.
(Latin name: *Trichia striolata*)
Colour: Yellowish / grey / dark brown. The shell isn't pointed at the top and it has a large 'belly button'.

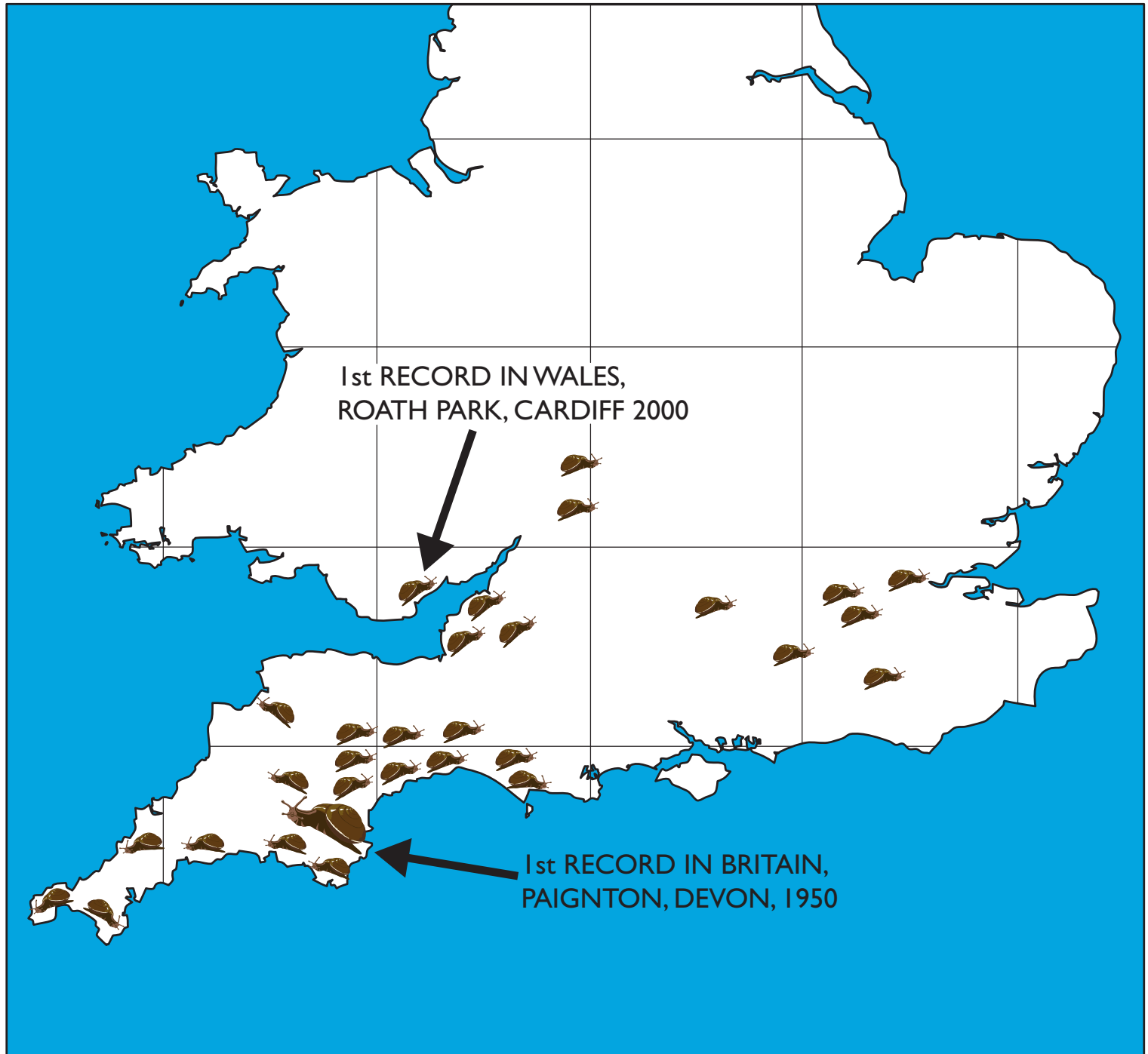


No This could be an **'ALIEN' GIRDLED SNAIL**.
(Latin name: *Hygromia cinctella*)
Colour: Usually light or dark brown. The shell has a ridge around its middle which is sometimes white in colour. You should be able to feel this ridge with your finger. The shell is pointed at the top, almost triangular in shape and has no 'belly button'.





SNAIL SEARCH



THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE 'ALIEN'
GIRDLED SNAIL (*Hygromia cinctella*) IN 2000

MALWODEN FEFUSOL



STRAWBERRY SNAIL

MALWODEN WYDROG



GLASS SNAIL

MALWODEN ARDD GYFFREDIN



COMMON GARDEN SNAIL

MALWODEN ARDD RIMYNNOG


















BANDED GARDEN SNAIL

MALWODEN WREGYSOG 'ESTRON'



(*Hygromia cinctella*)

'ALIEN' GIRDLED SNAIL

Snail	Top	Middle	Bottom	Checklist
Common Garden Snail				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bigger than a five pence piece. 2. Colour: light brown/yellow with blotchy markings. 3. The opening of the shell where the snail comes out is often white.
Banded				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bigger than a five pence piece. 2. Colour: pale yellow/yellow, brown or pink. 3. It usually has between 1 and 5 neat spiral lines that look like they have been painted on. Though sometimes it doesn't have any lines and appears yellow in colour.
Glass Snail				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smaller than a five pence piece. 2. Glass snails have very shiny shells. Sometimes so thin, you can see through them! This is why they are called glass snails. 3. The glass snail has a 'belly button' on the underside of it's shell, which is about the size of the tip of a pencil. 4. The shell isn't pointed at the top.
Strawberry				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smaller than a five pence piece. 2. Colour: yellow/grey/dark brown or dark red. 3. The strawberry snail has a 'belly button' on the underside of it's shell, which is about the size of the tip of a pencil. 4. The shell isn't pointed at the top.
'Alien' Girdled Snail				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Smaller than a five pence piece. 2. Colour: usually light or dark brown. 3. The underside of the snail doesn't have a large 'belly button'. 4. The shell is pointed at the top and almost triangular in shape. 5. The shell has a ridge around its middle - which is sometimes white in colour. You should be able to feel this ridge with your finger.

Snail Sizes & Colour Charts

'Alien'
Snail
Colours



Glass
Snail
Colours



Strawberry
Snail
Colours



Actual sizes



Common
Snail
Colours



Banded
Snail
Colours



Trouble Shooting Tips

Young Snails



When Banded Snails or Common Garden Snails are young they are smaller than a five pence piece – which is different to what it says in the Snail Search Sheet. This occasionally causes them to be identified as the 'alien' snail. To avoid this problem, ensure you check all the features carefully. By checking the shell patterns and shape of the snail it is fairly easy to spot young Common and Banded Snails.

Yellow Snails



Many schools report on finding strange yellow snails. These are always found to be the variety of Banded Garden Snail that doesn't have stripes. Remember that the number of bands or stripes on the banded snail can vary from 0 to 5 and without any stripes - it just appears yellow.

If you have any problems in identifying your snails then e-mail a question or a digital photo to danielle.cowell@nmgw.ac.uk for help or phone 02920 573304.