

# Have you seen the Ghost Slug?



The bizarre Ghost Slug was first found in a Cardiff garden in 2007. It is blind, lives underground, and kills and eats earthworms by squeezing down their burrows. Ghost Slugs are originally from Turkey and Georgia and have not been seen in Europe before, but they may be spreading. We would like to hear from anyone who has seen them.

## How to recognise Ghost Slugs, Shelled Slugs, and others\*

<b>Extended</b> <hr/> <b>Contracted</b>	 no eyes white body faint grooves on back <b>breathing hole at rear</b>	 eyes brownish body quite strong grooves on back <b>tiny shell</b> covering breathing hole (a bit like a fingernail)	 eyes <b>breathing hole nearer head</b> body smooth or warty; sometimes whitish	* Pictures shown about actual size. Young slugs will be smaller. Colours can vary, so the other features are more important.
	 cylindrical, with head sucked in	 hump-shaped	 hump-shaped	
	<b>1. Ghost Slug</b> <b>Wanted</b>	<b>2. Shelled Slug</b> <b>Wanted</b>	<b>3. Field Slug (and others)</b> Not wanted; very common!	

The best chance of seeing Ghost Slugs is while moving plant pots or digging. They differ from all other British slugs in having a breathing hole very near the tail. Almost as mysterious are the Shelled Slugs. Like Ghost Slugs they live in soil and eat earthworms (but do not seem to be a pest). They have been in Britain for a long time, but are rarely seen.

If you see Ghost Slugs or Shelled Slugs, or would like more information, please contact us at the address below. Digital photographs or live slugs, if you have them, are very welcome.