

Virginia Land Snails

Appalachina sayana (Pilsbry, 1906)

Allogona profunda (Say, 1821)

Family: Polygyridae

Common name: Spike-lip Crater

Identification

Width: 19-27 mm

Height: 12-16mm

Whorls: 5+

The reflected lip of this polygyrid is rather narrow, the apex a bit pronounced, and the shell relatively fragile. The two small teeth in the round aperture of this shell are diagnostic. It has a deep, open umbilicus (not a narrow slit like *Mesodon thyroidus*).

Ecology

The Spike-lip Crater seems to have an affinity for hardwood and mixed wood forests with understory vegetation, sometimes near small gaps or wetland edges. It prefers to live in wet leaf litter and log debris. Densities are usually low.

Taxonomy

Appalachina sayana has also been known as *A. sayanus*, *Helix diodonta*, *H. sayi*, *Mesodon sayanus*, *M. sayi*, *Polygyra sayana* and *P. sayii*.

Distribution

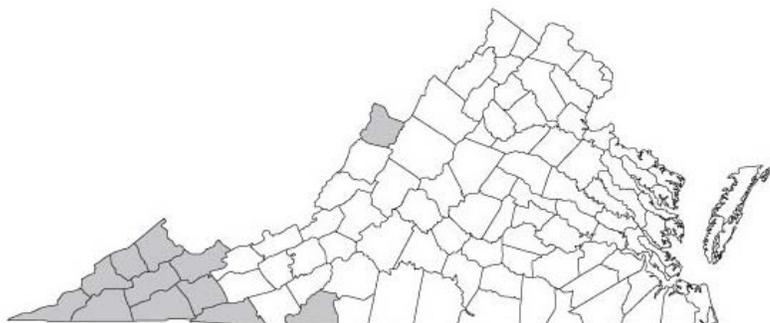
This cool forest species ranges from the Smoky Mountains to Maine and Michigan, into southern Canada. In Virginia it is reported from the southwestern-most counties and Patrick County, though not reported from several northwest border counties where it is found in adjacent West Virginia.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5

NatureServe State Rank: S3

Ken Hotopp, Meegan Winslow 8/2012

Range Map



Photo(s): Views of an Appalachianina sayana shell by Dan Dourson ©
Note the narrowly-reflected lip and small basal tooth, as well as the parietal tooth.

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