Virginia Land Snails

*Cecilioides acicula* (Müller, 1774) (non-native)

Family: Ferussaciidae  
Common name: Blind Awlsnail

**Identification**  
Width: 1.2 mm  
Height: 4.5-5.5 mm  
Whorls: 5+

*Cecilioides acicula* has an extremely long, narrow shell ending in a blunt apex. During the animal’s life the thin shell is glossy, transparent, and colorless; after death the shell becomes opaque and white. The columnella comes to an abrupt end when it reaches the edge of the basal lip (Pilsbry 1948, Kerney and Cameron 1979).

**Ecology**  
In the United States, *C. acicula* has only been reported as dead shells among drift debris along small creeks (Pilsbry 1948, NatureServe, 2012). In Europe it is known as a subterranean species that lives underneath root masses or deep in rock crevices, usually in calcium-rich environments (Kerney and Cameron 1979).

**Taxonomy**  
*Cecilioides acicula* has also been known as *Buccinum aciculum*, *Caecilianella acicula*, and *Caecilioides acicula*.

**Distribution**  
This snail is a native of Europe and has been introduced to parts of the Atlantic coast of the United States. It has only recently been discovered in Virginia (Örstan 2007), where it was found next to a creek in Shenandoah County.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5  
NatureServe State Rank: SNA

Meegan Winslow 11/2012

**Range Map**

[Map of Virginia showing the distribution of the snail species]