

Virginia Land Snails

Mesodon clausus (Say, 1821)

Family: Polygyridae

Common name: Yellow Globelet

Identification

Width: 13.6 - 18.0 mm

Height: 10 - 13 mm

Whorls: 5+

This snail has a globe-shaped shell, and a slit-like umbilicus partly covered by the reflected peristome. There are no teeth in the aperture. The shell surface is finely and closely striate. The shell is very similar to that of *M. thyroidus*, though usually smaller and lacking a parietal tooth. *Mesodon clausus* may be a spurious description of *M. thyroidus* colonies living in calcium-poor habitats, resulting in smaller toothless shells.

Ecology

Like *M. thyroidus* this snail is patchy in distribution, and often along river floodplains and wetlands.

Taxonomy

Emberton (1991) found a close relationship between *M. clausus* and *M. thyroidus* but claimed a small shift in reproductive anatomy and allozymes. Synonyms for this species include *Mesodon clausa*, *Helix clausa*, *H. ingallsi*, *H. jugallsiana*, *Triodopsis thyroidus edentula*, *Polygyra clausa*.

Distribution

Mesodon clausus is distributed in the southern, midwestern and eastern United States, sympatric with the range of *M. thyroidus*. It is reported in western Virginia counties.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5;

NatureServe State Rank: S2S4

Virginia's wildlife action plan: Tier IV

Ken Hotopp 4/2013

Range Map



Photo(s): A putative *Mesodon clausus* shell by Larry Watrous ©.

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