Virginia Land Snails

*Rumina decollata* (Linnaeus, 1758) (non-native)

**Family:** Subulinidae  
**Common name:** Decollate Snail

### Identification
Height: 22.5-30.0 mm  
Width: 10-11 mm  
Whorls: 4.0-5.5

The shell of *Rumina decollata* is a tall, tapering cylinder with a truncated apex (Pilsbry, 1946; Kerney & Cameron, 1979). The lip is simple and thin. The whorls are sculptured with irregular growth wrinkles and occasional fine spiral striae. Shells are light-colored – tan, white, or light brown, and a bit glossy. The animal is a pale yellow.

The shell’s apex does break off in stages, but the animal inside remains protected by a shell-like plate at the break. Juvenile shells are narrow, taller and tapering, with a blunt apex.

### Ecology
In Mediterranean areas, it is found in dry, open habitats upon calcium-rich soils (Kerney & Cameron, 1979). Its eggs are 2.5 mm in diameter, relatively large. This snail is omnivorous, and is sometimes sold as a control agent for garden pest slugs and snails. Some states have banned this trade.

### Taxonomy
**Synonyms for** *R. decollata* include *Helix decollata*, *Stenogyra decollata*, *Bulimus decollata*, and *B. multilatus*.

### Distribution
*Rumina decollata* is introduced in North America from the Mediterranean. It has been introduced to the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific Coasts. In Virginia, specimens are reported only from Norfolk.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5  
NatureServe State Rank: Not listed

Ken Hotopp 2/2013

**Range Map**