Virginia Land Snails

*Vallonia costata* (Müller, 1774)

Family: Valloniidae
Common name: Costate Vallonia

**Identification**
Width: 2.5 mm
Height: 1 mm
Whorls: 3+

A heavy reflected lip and radial ridges characterize the shell of this animal. It is larger than *V. parvula* and has a slightly smaller umbilicus, though it is still quite open. The apex of the shell is low. The aperture is nearly circular with a wide lip, except at the point near the upper termination.

**Ecology**
*Vallonia costata* is a denizen of forest gaps and dry, open, rich habitats (Kerney & Cameron, 1979). In Maine this species appears in anthropogenic habitats, probably introduced (Nylander, 1936; Nekola, 2008), and Nekola suggests it is a European exotic, while Kerney & Cameron call it “holartic.”

**Taxonomy**
A synonym for *V. costata* is *Helix costata*. Prior to work by Sterki in the 1890’s, early collections of *V. costata* were considered to be a variety of *Vallonia pulchella* (in Pilsbry, 1946-48).

**Distribution**
In eastern North America this species is generally distributed through the Midwest, Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic and western New England, and eastern Canada (Hubricht, 1985). It has been found in various places throughout Virginia, but not as often along the southern edge of the state.

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Ken Hotopp, Greg Kimber 11/2012

Range Map