

Virginia Land Snails

Ventridens decussatus (Walker and Pilsbry, 1902)

Family: Gastrodontidae

Common name: Crossed Dome

Identification

Width: 7.8-8.2 mm

Width: 5-6 mm

Whorls: 8

The shell of this animal is a tall dome shape, like some other *Ventridens*, but the final whorl is angular, making its profile unique. The top of the shell has many close, strong *radial* striations, while the base is smoother with some traces of *spiral* striae. The surface of the shell is somewhat dull rather than glossy. The edge of the aperture is thin and is armed with two teeth – one close to the columella and a high, short basal lamella. It can be differentiated from *V. collisella* by the angled periphery and the somewhat wider umbilicus. The animal is dark above.

Ecology

This species is found at high elevations, usually above 3,000 feet. It lives in leaf litter, particularly oak leaves.

Taxonomy

Synonyms for *V. decussatus* are *Gastrodonta gularis decussate*, *Ventridens gularis decussate*, *V. g. decussatus*, and *Zonitoides (Ventridens) decussatus*.

Distribution

Ventridens decussatus is reported from the highlands of Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Its presence in Virginia is based upon a single collection in Scott County (S. Roble, pers. comm.).

NatureServe Global Rank: G3

NatureServe State Rank: S1

Virginia's wildlife action plan: Tier III

Greg Kimber, Ken Hotopp 7/2012



Photo(s): Live *Ventridens decussatus* by Bill Frank ©, and shell by Dan Dourson ©.

[Click photo\(s\) to enlarge.](#)