

## Virginia Land Snails

### *Ventridens demissus* (A. Binney, 1843)

Family: Gastrodontidae

Common name: Perforate Dome

#### Identification

Width: 7.5 – 10.4 mm

Height: 4.8 – 6.8 mm

Whorls: 6+

The apex of this animal's shell is relatively low, with an obtuse spire. The umbilicus is very small, the area around it only slightly depressed, and the base is generally flat and smooth. The surface of the shell is a yellowish, horn-color and mostly quite smooth, though there are some fine, widely-spaced striae on the outer whorls. The aperture is not especially wide, and the lip is thin. Young shells may have an outer basal lamina (Pilsbry, 1946-48; Dourson, 2010). The shell is generally smaller and lower than *V. ligera*.

#### Taxonomy

Synonyms for *V. demissus* are *Gastrodonta demissa*, *Helix demissa*, *Zonites demissus*, and *Zonitoides (Ventricallus) demissus*.

#### Ecology

*Ventridens demissus* is found in a range of habitats including ravines, wooded hillsides with leaf litter, and floodplains. It is even found in urban areas (Dourson, 2010).

#### Distribution

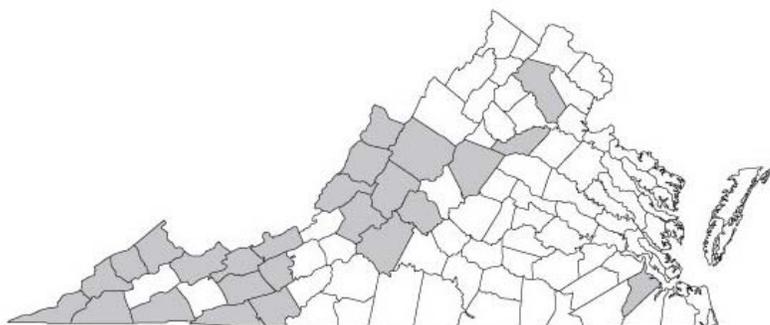
*Ventridens demissus* is spread from southwestern Pennsylvania south to east Texas and west to northern Florida. It is found in Gulf Coast but generally not in Atlantic Coast or Piedmont counties. In Virginia, it is mostly in the west.

NatureServe Global Rank: G5

NatureServe State Rank: S4

Greg Kimber, Ken Hotopp 11/2012

#### Range Map



Photo(s): Live *Ventridens demissus* by Bill Frank ©. Shell by Dan Dourson ©

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