Snails

- Spired
- Gilled Snail
- Hard Cover
- Pond snails (no hard cover, have lungs)
- Planar
Spired Snails

Right coiled

Left coiled
Spired Snails

Adult vs. Immature Snails

• Adults have a spire with $\geq 3$ whorls
• Immature 1-2 whorls
Spired Snails - Left Coiled

Physa is very common, sizes vary widely.
The opening of Physa is always more than half of its vertebral length, the opening of Aplexa is always less.
Large Spired Snails - Right Coiled

Lymnaea Stagnalis
Stagnicola Elodes
Stagnicola Reflexa
Large Spired Snails - Right Coiled

Lymnaea Stagnalis
Very narrow spire, gets large very abruptly in last whorl

Stagnicola Elodes
Whorls increase in size evenly, robust body

Stagnicola Reflexa
Whorls increase in size evenly, narrow body
Large Spired Snails - Right Coiled

- **Lymnaea Stagnalis**
  Very narrow spire, gets large very abruptly in last whorl

- **Stagnicola Elodes**
  Whorls increase in size evenly, robust body

- **Stagnicola Reflexa**
  Whorls increase in size evenly, narrow body
Spired Snails - Right Coiled

Lymnaea Stagnalis

- Size can vary
- Up to 56 mm
- Thin, fragile shell
- Sharp point
- Wide whorl above the opening of the shell
Spired Snails - Right Coiled

Oriental Mystery Snail

- Note rounded shape
- Operculum (hard cover) may not be present on a preserved specimen

- Bulimnaea vs. gill snail
Spired Snails- Right Coiled

Fossaria

- Less than 13 mm
- Small with 4-5 turns in shell

Stagnicola

- Some may have similar shape to Fossaria, but they are much larger
- Up to 32 or 35 mm

Fossaria vs. stagnicola
Planar Snails
Planar Snails

Helisoma – mature Helisoma are much larger than other planar snails in both horizontal profile
Planar Snails

Helisoma – mature Helisoma are much larger than other planar snails in both horizontal profile, and vertical profile.
Planar Snails

Helisoma – mature Helisoma are much larger than other planar snails in both horizontal profile, and vertical profile.
Two types of Helisoma must be distinguished: right coiled and left coiled.
Planar Snails - Helisoma

Two key characteristics are used to distinguish right-handed (H. aniceps) from left handed (H. trivolvis) Helisoma.
Planar Snails - Helisoma

H. trivolvis    H. anceps

H. anceps has an angular opening
Planar Snails - Helisoma

H. trivolvis

H. anceps

H. anceps has an angular opening
Planar Snails - Helisoma

Deeply indented bottom

The umbilicus indicates which side is down
Planar Snails - Helisoma

Shallowly indented top

(Nearly smooth)

The umbilicus indicates which side is down
Planar Snails - Helisoma

H. Trivolvis
(bottom)

H. Anceps
(bottom)

Angled opening continues along the bottom of H. anceps in the form of a sharply angular carinal ridge.
Small Planar Snails
Small Planar Snails

Gyraulus

Planorbula

Promenetus
Small Planar Snails

Gyraulus

Gyraulus are generally the smallest of the common small planar snails

Planorbula  Promenetus
Small Planar Snails

Gyraulus typically have fragile shells. Their whorls increase in size quickly compared to Planorbulus.
Small Planar Snails

In lateral view, the opening of Gyraulus is offset below the main body of the snail
Small Planar Snails

**Gyraulus**

Planorbula are generally the largest of the common small planar snails

Planorbula  Promenetus
In lateral view, the opening of Planorbula is even with the main body of the snail
Small Planar Snails

Promenetus are most easily identified by viewing them laterally.

Planorbula

Promenetus
Small Planar Snails

In lateral view, the edges of Promentus come to a tapered edge, unlike the other small planar snails which are rounded.
Small Planar Snails

Armiger crista
uncommon

Gyraulus parvus
very common