

Molluscs of Elm Fork Preserve

This category includes those animals that do not possess a backbone. For sake of clarity and ease of use, the arthropods have been excluded from this category which hereby limits itself to worms and mollusks (snails and slugs).

Comments: The comments section lists remarks in the following order:

- ¹ Interesting facts and natural history associated with the animal. Its place of origin is also listed if it is an alien.
- ² Edible, medicinal or other useful qualities of the animal for humans. The potential for poisoning or otherwise injuring humans is also listed here.
- ³ Food preferences of the animal and potential predators. Ecological impact.
- ⁴ Identifying features of the animal, especially differences between similar species.
- ⁵ Dates, times and locations of animals sighted. Observed behaviors.
- ⁶ Synonyms; outdated or recently changed scientific names are inserted here.
- ⁷ Control measures. The date, method and reason for any selective mollusc elimination.
- ⁸ Intentional Introductions. The date, source and reason for any mollusc introductions.
- ⁹ Identification references. Species identifications were made by the author unless otherwise noted. Identifications were verified using the reference material cited.
- ¹⁰ Accession made. Photos were taken and filed by date (and/or) shells or other hard evidence were collected.

Bivalves

(Mussels)

Kingdom: Animalia > Phylum: Mollusca > Class Bivalvia >

(F)	mussel	⁴ Texas is home to more than 50 species of mussels. They are currently in severe decline due to a variety of factors: Changes in the flow rate, of streams, increased siltation, and aquatic contamination rank highly among their host of problems. Some Texas mussels have life-spans of 5 or 6 years, while others live for 50 years or more. ¹⁰ 28 Nov 06 - Three photos of an empty shell found at the big pond. 2006 - Two sharp photos by "Z" of an empty shell at the big pond.
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Gastropods

(Snails and slugs)

Kingdom: Animalia > Phylum: Mollusca > Class Gastropoda >

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
(F) Achatinidae <i>Rumina decollata</i>	Snail, Decollate	¹ "The largest member of the Achatinidae, <i>Rumina decollata</i> (Linne), is of Mediterranean origin and although introduced into North Carolina, has subsequently spread rather rapidly throughout all of the southern states" (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.1). ³ It seems odd that this omnivorous creature should be intentionally released in gardens to control snails and slugs that eat tender garden plants because as soon as the supply of offending snails decreases, the decollate snail will happily turn to eating those tender garden plants. ⁴ This snail has a very high rate of translation (forms a tall cone) and the tip of the shell is usually broken off (decollated). ⁵ 10 Oct 05 - A young girl picked up an empty shell beside the trail during a trail walk and showed it to me. I had not noted their presence in the preserve prior to this.

(F) Bulimulidae <i>Rabdotus dealbatus</i>	Snail, Rabdotus	⁶ Synonymous with <i>Bulimulus dealbatus</i> ⁹ (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.11) ¹⁰ 26 Oct 04 - Three photos from all angles with ruler.
(F) Helicinidae <i>Helicina orbiculata</i>	Snail, Helicina	⁴ This small, Thick-shelled, pearly white land snail with a low rate of translation (forms a low cone), is the most commonly encountered snail on the preserve. ⁶ Synonymous with <i>Olygyra orbiculata</i> . ⁹ (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.9) ¹⁰ 7 Oct 05 - Several photos of the snail.
(F) Limacidae <i>Limax flavus</i>	Slug, Limax	⁴ Only two species of slugs are listed for Texas. They are easily distinguished from each other by examining their backs. The mantle of <i>Philomycus carolinianus</i> covers most of its back and it has no keel. <i>Limax flavus</i> has a keel and its mantle only covers a small part of the front half of its back (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.7). ⁵ 26 Oct 04 - Noted one under bark on the ground.
(F) Physidae <i>Physa virgata</i>	Snail, Freshwater Pouch Snail	⁴ This cone-shaped snail is the only freshwater snail in Texas that spirals sinistrally (to the left). ⁵ 4 Nov 05 - The snails in the lily pond do open to the left when the spire is pointing up. ⁹ (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.15)
(F) Planorbidae <i>Helisoma trivolvis lentum</i>	Snail, Freshwater	⁴ This freshwater snail develops into a disk shape (instead of a cone) and has fine, evenly-spaced ribs across the shell. ⁵ 7 Oct 05 - Abundant in the lily pond beside the parking area. ⁹ (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.15) ¹⁰ 7 Oct 05 - Two photos taken at the lily pond. 2006 - Ten great photos of this snail, taken at the lily pond, by Tzila Duenzl, hereafter referred to as "Z".
(F) Polygyridae <i>Mesodon roemeri</i>	Snail, Mesodon	⁴ This snail has equally spaced, fine growth lines on the shell and the lip (the edge of the shell at the opening) is expanded and curves outward. ⁵ 14 Jan 03 -- Accession made of 2 empty shells, each 22 mm in diameter. ⁹ (Cheatum and Fullington, 1971, p.10)
(F) unknown	Snail, unknown	¹⁰ 18 June 05 - Photo of an unidentified snail, taken by "Z".



9 species identified/noted as of 31 December 2005

Reference:

Cheatum, E.P. & R.W. Fullington. The Aquatic and Land Mollusca of Texas - Bulletin 1 from the Dallas Museum of Natural History. Dallas, Texas: Melton Printing Co., Inc., 1971.
Hickman, Cleveland P., Larry Roberts & Frances Hickman. Biology of Animals. St. Louis, Missouri: Times Mirror/Mosby College Publishing, 1986.

Caution: Alteration of this electronic document destroys data integrity and voids all liability for species misidentification by the author.