

# Dextral Pond Snail (Native)

*Lymnae* or *Fossaria*



Snails are important members of freshwater ecosystems, such as the Tahoe Basin. They are an important food source for a variety of wildlife such as ducks, turtles and fish. They also help to maintain good water quality by controlling algae and detritus levels, which then promotes nutrient cycling in the ecosystem. Our native snail species—the dextral and sinistral pond snails, and the ramshorn snail—are well worth protecting.

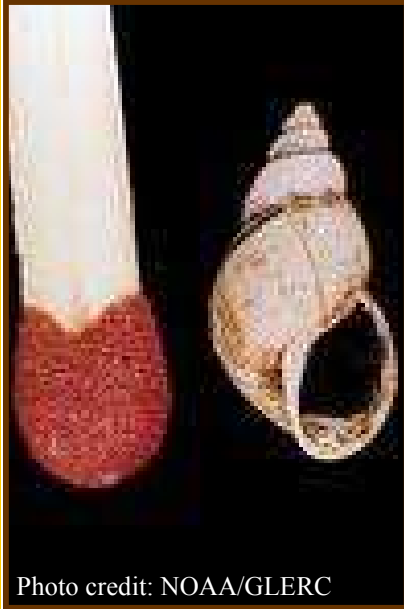


Photo credit: NOAA/GLERC

**Preferred Habitat:** Cobble or aquatic vegetation at depths of 6-130 feet (2-40 m)

**Characteristics:** Small, dextral shell (when the opening, or aperture, is facing you the opening is on the right-hand side)

**Size:** 1/10-1/2 in. (3-13 mm)

**Food:** Periphyton (algae)

# Sinistral Pond Snail

*Physella*

Snails are important members of freshwater ecosystems, such as the Tahoe Basin. They are an important food source for a variety of wildlife such as ducks, turtles and fish. They also help to maintain good water quality by controlling algae and detritus levels, which then promotes nutrient cycling in the ecosystem. Our native snail species—the dextral and sinistral pond snails, and the ramshorn snail—are well worth protecting.



Photo credit: NOAA/GLERC

**Preferred Habitat:** Cobble or aquatic vegetation in shallow water

**Characteristics:** Small, sinistral shell (when the opening, or aperture, is facing you the opening is on the left-hand side)

**Size:** 1/5-1/5 in. (5-15 mm)

**Food:** Detritus and associated bacteria at the bottom of the lake