

# Golden-shelled Slug

## Links to Habitat Action Plans and Guidance Notes.

Priority habitats associated with Golden-shelled Slug:

Gardens Guidance Note

Action Plans have been prepared for those in bold.

## What you can do to help:

Take a closer look at the slugs in your garden to see if they are carrying a tiny shell.

Report any that are to the NEYEDC.

## Introduction

Slugs, like most invertebrates, rarely receive any attention as part of our wildlife. They are though as much a part of our natural heritage as any other and fulfil their allotted role admirably, even if we do not always like the outcome of their activities. Like any other group, different species live in very different ways. Some are herbivores and eat plants and some are carnivores.

The Testacellas are a group of three species of terrestrial slug of West European distribution which are distinguished from other British slugs by the presence of a small external shell. They are carnivorous, feeding mainly on earthworms.

## Our objective for Golden-shelled Slug:

Increase our understanding of the distribution of the species.  
Encourage friendly gardening methods for sites and gardens where the slug occurs.

## Status and Distribution

It is the most common of the three species of Testacella in Britain and over the years has been recorded in nearby counties. However, apart from Dewsbury, Sheffield and Rotherham in the 1970s and 1980s, the only records have been from Scarborough in the Valley Gardens and more recently (1983 to date) within a private residential garden in Scalby.

## Threats

The main problems associated with the species is the lack of information available and the difficulty in identification by members of the public. Why the species has been unable to establish itself in other habitats is unknown, however, it has been assumed that this group of slugs cannot tolerate significant levels of disturbance. There is a significant lack of information with regard to this species. However,

along with most species of slug and snail it is likely to be susceptible to slug pellets.

## Current Action

No current actions. However, there is an opportunity for the BAP to encourage people not to use slug pellets. The use of slug pellets not only affects slugs but can also have an impact on other popular animals, such as Hedgehog and the declining (UK BAP priority species) Song Thrush Populations in both the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors National Parks. The reasons for the decline involve the following.



Golden-shelled Slug: (Photograph by B Cockerill)