

Discovery of Living *Anguispira alternata* (Say, 1816) (Discidae: Gastropoda) in Louisiana, USA

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Of the 13 recognized species of *Anguispira* in the US, 2 are listed as occurring in Louisiana (NatureServe 2009). *Anguispira alternata* (Say, 1819) is a pulmonate land snail found throughout the eastern US, including states bordering the Mississippi River to the west (Hubricht 1985). The other species, *A. strongyloides* (Pfeiffer, 1854), is found across the southern US, with a range that narrowly overlaps *A. alternata* at its northern boundary. The shell of *A. strongyloides* differs from that of *A. alternata* by lacking streaks along the base and the umbilicus and by having smaller spots along the shell periphery (Pilsbry 1948). Hubricht (1985) listed only fossil *A. alternata* as occurring in Louisiana and Mississippi, while NatureServe (2009) lists it as extirpated in both states. Pilsbry viewed *strongyloides* as a weakly differentiated subspecies of *A. alternata* endemic to east-central Texas, although Hubricht (1960) later elevated *strongyloides* to species status and established its currently recognized range (Hubricht 1985).

During a recent survey of Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge (32.6°N, 92.04°W) in Monroe, LA, we collected a number of living and dead specimens that matched the original description and other published images of *A. alternata* and not *A. strongyloides*. These specimens possessed the color patterns described by Pilsbry (1948), most notably prominent spots on the periphery and streaks on the underside that separate *A. alternata* from *A. strongyloides*. Individuals were found in leaf litter in undisturbed bottomland hardwood forest remnants at the refuge. These findings suggest that *A. alternata* is neither extinct nor extirpated in Louisiana. Instead, researchers may have overlooked the species, or it may have a reduced range in the state due to anthropogenic loss of suitable habitats. Much of the northern portion of Louisiana is now agricultural land, with pockets of hardwood and mixed pine forest. The discovery of live *A. alternata* in Louisiana highlights the need for careful surveys of land snails and other easily overlooked terrestrial invertebrate taxa in the US and worldwide. <http://zoolstud.sinica.edu.tw/Journals/50.1/86.pdf>

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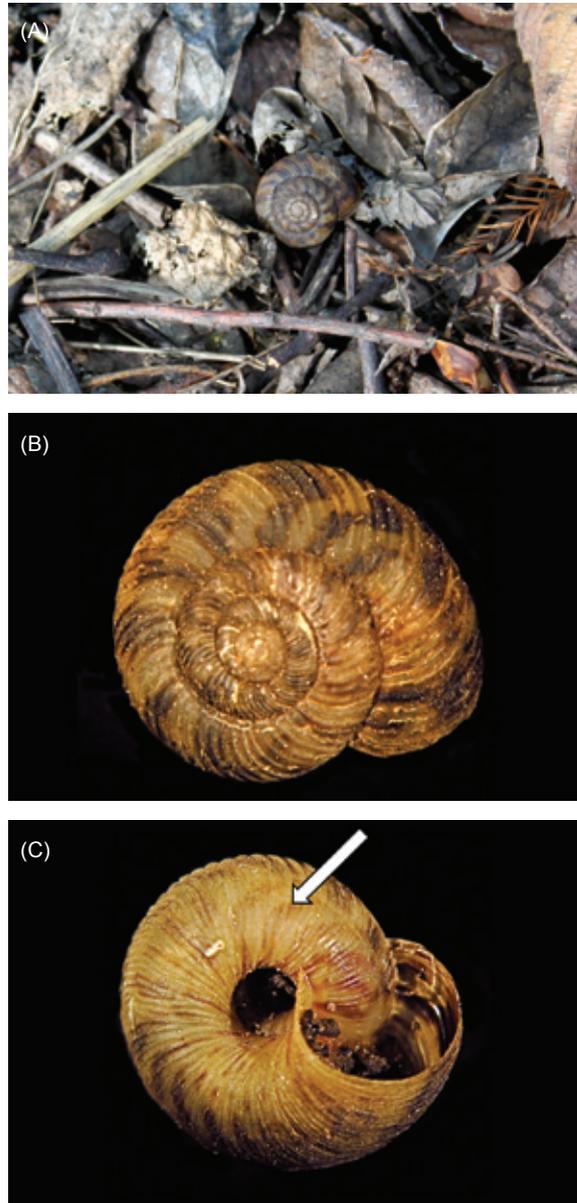


Fig. 1. *Anguispira alternata*. (A) Living snail found in leaf litter at Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge. (B) View of spire showing blotchy pattern. (C) Streaks on the underside around the umbilicus.

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