

THE FIRST RECORD OF *DISCUS ROTUNDATUS* FROM TURKEY

by Aydin Örstan*)

Abstract: The land snail *Discus rotundatus* was collected at Anadolu Hisari, a 14th century fort in Istanbul. The lack of previous records of *D. rotundatus* from Turkey suggests that it is an introduced species.

Key words: land snail, Pulmonata, introduced species

The native distribution range of *Discus rotundatus* (Müller 1774) covers western and central Europe (Kerney & Cameron, 1979; Kerney et al., 1983). The species has been introduced to places outside this range, for example, the U.S.A. (Pilsbry, 1948; Dundee, 1974) and Finland (Kerney & Cameron, 1979). On 2 August 2002, I collected 31 empty shells of *D. rotundatus* at a spot along a wall of Anadolu Hisari, a 14th century fort on the Asian side of the Bosphorus in Istanbul, Turkey. The shells were in soil at the base of a rock outcrop on which a wall of the fort was erected (my station I7; UTM zone 35 E673612 m, N4549940 m). The location, facing a small park, was shaded by a small tree, ivies and other plants.



1. Two *Discus rotundatus* shells from Anadolu Hisari, Istanbul. The scale is in millimeters.

The ranges of the diameters and heights of the 11 largest *D. rotundatus* shells were 4.8-5.4 mm and 2.5-3.1 mm, respectively. The reddish-brown marks characteristic of the species were especially visible on fresh shells (Fig. 1). I have deposited 27 shells (CM 63745) in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A. Also present at station I7 were *Papillifera papillaris*, *Elia huebneri*, *Euxina circumdata*, *Lauria cylindracea*, *Vallonia costata*, *Oxychilus camelinus*, *Oxychilus* cf. *translucidus*, *Helix aspersa* and a shell of an unidentified slug species (*Deroceras*?). There are no previous records of *D. rotundatus* from Turkey (Schütt, 2001) and so far I have not found it at several other collection stations in the Istanbul area. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the species is not native to Turkey. In this context, I note that *H. aspersa* at I7 is also an introduced species and so are probably *O. camelinus* and *O. cf. translucidus* (Riedel, 1995).

According to Kerney & Cameron (1979), in Finland *D. rotundatus* is found only in gardens and greenhouses. Likewise, all records of this species from the U.S. are from parks, gardens and greenhouses (Pilsbry, 1948; Dundee, 1974). These records suggest that the species is transported in soil or with plants. *D. rotundatus* may have been brought to Anadolu Hisari with the trees or the other vegetation planted in the park by the collection station. If this is indeed the usual introduction route, colonies of *D. rotundatus* may exist in gardens and parks elsewhere in Istanbul.

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