

## A NEW RECORD OF *CECILIOIDES ACICULA* FROM NORTH AMERICA (PULMONATA: FERUSSACIIDAE)

by Aydın Örstan\*)

**Abstract:** The European land snail *Cecilioides acicula* was found in Shenandoah County, Virginia, U.S.A. in November 2006. This constitutes the first record of this alien species from Virginia.

**Key words:** Mollusca, Gastropoda, Ferussaciidae, *Cecilioides acicula*, distribution, North America, Virginia, alien species.

The land snail *Cecilioides acicula* (Müller 1774), Fam. Ferussaciidae, is native to Europe and the Mediterranean area (Kerney & Cameron, 1979). Human activities have introduced it to other parts of the world, for example, to Bermuda at least since 1861 (Bieler & Slapcinsky, 2000) and New Zealand (Barker, 1999). In the U.S., it was first recorded in Pennsylvania and Florida (Pilsbry, 1946). Dundee (1974) cited additional records from two places in Maryland and another one from Pennsylvania. In December 2006, the NatureServe website also listed records from California, New Jersey and New Mexico (NatureServe, 2006).

On 25 November 2006, I collected one adult and 5 juvenile shells of *C. acicula* in Shenandoah County, Virginia (Fig. 1). The collection site was the ruins of a bridge next to a creek (South Fork Run) near the intersection of Battlefield and Old Valley Roads, west of Strasburg (UTM Zone 18, E726160 m, N4317756 m; altitude: 200 m). The rock type at the station was limestone. The specimens have been deposited in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA, U.S.A. (CM 77575).

The collection site did not appear to have been disturbed recently and the surrounding area was somewhat rural. It is not known how *C. acicula* may have been brought to the area.

The species burrows in soil (Kerney & Cameron, 1979). According to Dundee (1974), *C. acicula* had been intercepted at several entry ports to the U.S. on bulbs, cacti, various vegetables and plants and in soil. Grimm (1959) found it under debris near railroad tracks in Carroll County, Maryland.

This is the first record of *C. acicula* from Virginia. All the shells of *C. acicula* from the station were empty. However, the presence of juvenile shells suggests that the species may be established at the location. The increasing number of places where *C. acicula* has been recorded in the U.S. suggests that the species is spreading throughout North America. However, *C. acicula* is known to be a calciphile (Kerney & Cameron, 1979) and its spread is likely to be restricted to such areas.

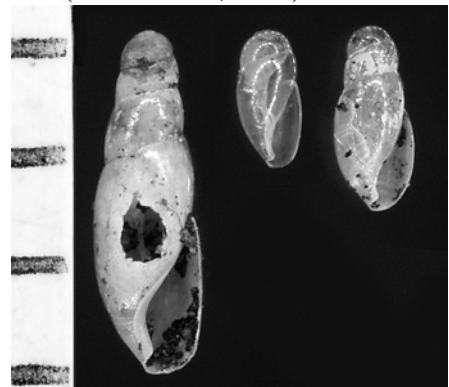
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1. *Cecilioides acicula* from Shenandoah County, Virginia, U.S.A. The adult shell was 3.1 mm long.