



## left-handed snails

representative species

Kingdom: Animalia  
Division/Phylum: Mollusca  
Class: Gastropoda  
Order:  
Family:

### FEATURES

A left-handed snail is asymmetrical and has a spiral shell. The opening of the shell is on the left when the spire (point) of the shell is held toward the sky and the opening faces you. A left-handed snail breathes with an internal gill. Each of the two eyes is located at the base of a sensory stalk. The shell is secreted by the mantle.

### BEHAVIORS

A left-handed snail may be found in any body of water with enough calcium carbonate in the water to allow for shell production. It is often found around vegetation. A left-handed snail lays eggs in gelatinous masses in the water. The eggs are attached to rocks or plants. This snail feeds by scraping algae off of plants and other objects in the water with its radula, which has teeth.

### HABITATS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> swamps              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> peatlands                 |   |

### ILLINOIS STATUS

- |   |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common        | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered    | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> |                                     |

### ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.  
*Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.