



## operculate snails

representative species

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

### FEATURES

An operculate snail has an asymmetrical body with a spiral shell. Its muscular foot is used for movement. A small plate on the upper side of the foot can be used to seal the shell when the snail's body is drawn inside. An operculate snail breathes with internal gills. It has two eyes, each at the base of a sensory stalk. The shell is secreted by the mantle.

### BEHAVIORS

An operculate snail lives in any body of water with enough calcium carbonate in the water to allow for shell production. It is often found around vegetation. An operculate snail lays its eggs in gelatinous masses in the water. The eggs are attached to rocks or plants. It 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.