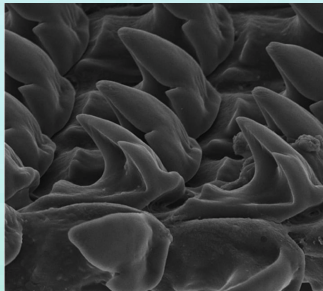


10 Fun Facts About GARDEN SNAILS

1. Snails are gastropod mollusks; “gastro” means stomach and “pod” means foot. They are in the same family as octopus, squid, slugs, clams, oysters and many others.

2. Snails make a silvery trail of **SLIME** which they leave on soil, plant leaves, the sidewalk or your hand! This slime, or mucus, helps them move around. Slime is produced by a special gland in the front of the snail’s foot.

3. The mouth of a snail is located on one end of its foot, beneath its tentacles. Up close, the inside of a snail’s mouth looks like it’s lined with Velcro (you know, that sticky stuff on your shoes.) Snail teeth are not like regular teeth, they are arranged in rows on its tongue called the radula. The snail moves its radula over food, scrapes off bits of it, and swallows. If you listen closely, you can even hear the snail’s radula scraping. A garden snail has about 14,000 teeth in its radula!



L.P. Van Ofwegen, Wikimedia Commons

4. Snails are herbivores, which means they eat fruit, vegetables, leaves, herbs, cereals, flowers and bark of trees.

5. Snails are nocturnal, which means they play and eat at night. This is because it gets too hot for them during the daytime under the hot sun, they can dry out! But, you will see them out and about on a cloudy or rainy day. Watch where you’re stepping!

6. Snails do not change shells when they grow up. Instead, the shell grows along with them. The size of a snail’s shell can tell you its age.

7. The garden snail is the world’s slowest moving animal. It moves at a top speed of 1.3 centimeters per second. This means that it will take a snail over 33 hours to move just one mile.

8. The eyes of garden snails can’t focus or see color, but they can just barely see another snail moving past, or a predator approaching.



9. Snails have no ears, so they can’t hear. But they probably sense vibrations through their skin.

10. Because snails can’t hear and can barely see, they have a very-developed sense of smell. They can locate food from several feet away, which for an animal of their teeny, tiny size is quite the distance. This would be like smelling your dinner from your neighbor’s house down the street!

SOURCES

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