

A SNAIL PEST OF CITRUS, THEBA PISANA MULLER<sup>1/</sup>  
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DESCRIPTION:--SHELL OF MEDIUM SIZE, WIDER THAN HIGH, AND HAVING A MINUTE OPENING AT THE BASE OF SHELL, THE UMBILICUS (FIG. 1B). ITS COLOR IS WHITE OR IVORY, AND IS USUALLY BANDED WITH BROWN LINES, SOME OF WHICH ARE GENERALLY INTERRUPTED INTO DOTS AND DASHES (FIG. 2A, B & C). THE WHORLS ARE WELL-ROUNDED AND SCULPTURED WITH MANY SPIRAL STRIAE, WINDING OR COILING IMPRESSED LINES. THE NUCLEAR WHORLS, THE FIRST PART OR BEGINNING OF A SHELL, ARE USUALLY DARK BROWN OR BLACK, GIVING THE APPEARANCE OF A BLACK DOT ON THE TOP OF THE SPIRE. THE SPIRE IS MADE UP OF ALL WHORLS ABOVE THE APERTURE. THE APERTURE IS ROUNDLY-SHAPED OR LIKE A HALF MOON. THE EDGE OF THE APERTURE OR LIP IS SHARP, BUT OFTEN RINGED INSIDE WITH A CALLUS OR THICKENING. ADULT SHELLS (WITH 4 OR 5 WHORLS) ARE 18-20MM IN DIAMETER.

DISTRIBUTION:--IRELAND, SOUTHWESTERN ENGLAND, SWITZERLAND, WESTERN FRANCE, MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES, INTRODUCED INTO THE ATLANTIC ISLANDS, SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALIA AND FORMERLY IN CALIFORNIA.

HABITS:--MOST LAND SNAILS AND SLUGS PASS THE WINTER IN SHELTERED PLACES UNDER STONES, LOGS, AND BOARDS, OR BURIED IN THE GROUND. THEBA PISANA IS NOT SO SECRETIVE, AESTIVATING (SUMMER DORMANCY) IN THE OPEN ON SUCH OBJECTS AS TREE TRUNKS AND FENCE POSTS DURING PERIODS OF UNFAVORABLE HUMIDITY AND TEMPERATURE.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE:--AN ESPECIAL NUISANCE TO CITRUS CROPS AND AT ONE TIME WELL ESTABLISHED IN CALIFORNIA, AND DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. THE SNAIL IS NOW APPARENTLY COMPLETELY ERADICATED IN CALIFORNIA. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF THIS SNAIL IN FLORIDA.

LITERATURE CITED:--SOME SNAILS AND SLUGS OF QUARANTINE SIGNIFICANCE TO THE UNITED STATES BY JOHN B. BURCH, ARS 82-1, FEBRUARY 1960.

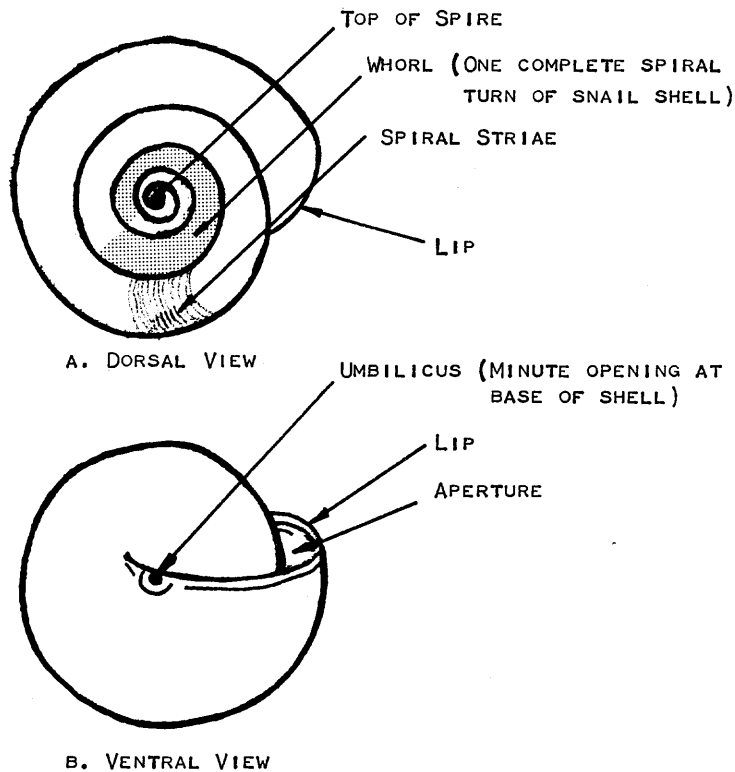


FIG. 1

(ILLUSTRATIONS BY E. L. WELLS, DIV. OF PLANT INDUSTRY)

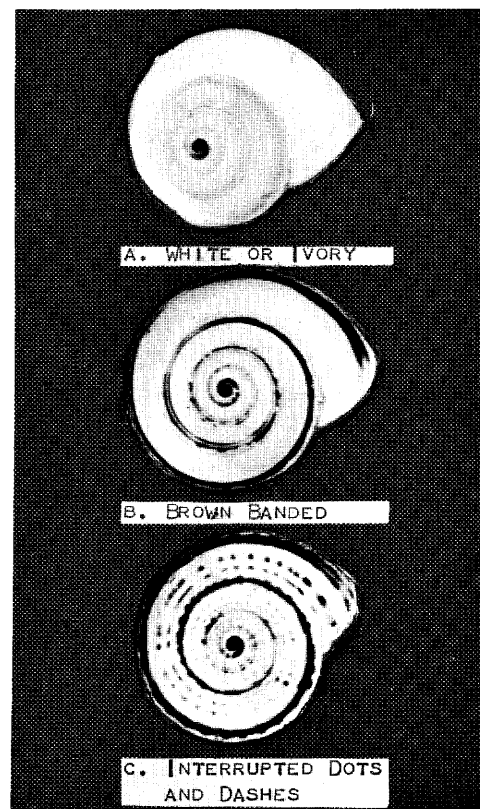


FIG. 2

(PHOTOS BY J. L. MESSEC, DIV. OF PLANT INDUSTRY)