**Western Glass-snail - *Vitrina pellucida***

*Other Names:* *Helix pellucida, Vitrina alaskana, Vitrina pfeifferi*

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### General Description

A moderately small shell, up to about 6 mm diameter and 4 mm in height, heliciform with a low and small spire, very fragile, 2 1/2 to 3 whorls, the last rapidly enlarging to form about half of the shell. Shell coloration is pale greenish or yellowish to almost colorless, translucent to transparent, shell smooth and glossy, with low axial wrinkles. Aperture is large and thin, oblique-ovate and rounded, without teeth; umbilicus tiny. Animal brownish, head and tentacles darker grayish (Hendricks 2012, Burke 2013). Internal anatomy is described by Forsyth (2004).

### Diagnostic Characteristics

No other land snail in the Pacific Northwest resembles this species in combination of small size, color (pale yellowish to nearly colorless), smooth and glossy shell, and a small number of whorls with the last rapidly expanding to the aperture. Live animals may appear to have a brownish shell, but that is the body color of the animal visible through the shell.

### Species Range

*Montana Range*
Range Comments
Widespread across Eurasia, in North America from Alaska to California to Rocky Mountains, including Arizona and New Mexico. In Montana, reported from both sides of the Continental Divide in 27 counties. Elevation range is 838 to 2582 m (2750 to 8470 ft). Probably occupies all forested “island” mountain ranges in eastern Montana. May be locally abundant; up to 140 shells (60 live) were located at one site in Lewis and Clark County in early October (Hendricks 2012).

Observations in Montana Natural Heritage Program Database
Number of Observations: 240

(Observations spanning multiple months or years are excluded from time charts)

Predicted Distribution in Montana
Predicted distribution model for Western Glass-snail (*Vitrina pellucida*). Records were spatially unique and had a locational uncertainty of ≤ 400 meters. Hotter colors indicate areas that are predicted to have more suitable habitat for the species. Black dots are positive data used to build the model. Gray dots are locations where a survey capable of detecting the species has been performed. Landownership, a shaded relief map, and county lines are included for reference. Details of the modeling effort, a description of the environmental layers used, and a more thorough interpretation of model outputs can be found in the report *Land Mollusk Surveys and Predicted Distribution Models on USFS Northern Region Lands: 2007*.
Which brings me to Vitrina angelicae, the Eastern Glass-Snail. Also I’ve seen a common name of Transparent Vitrine Snail, but that name is pretty lame. According to Pilsbry, the genus name stems from the the latin word vitrum, which translates to glass and the species name is traced to the plant, Angelica archangelica, near which it was originally found. According to the records, this snail is only known to reside in Western, mostly Northwestern, Pennsylvania. Also, according to what is known, the snail is an annual species—becoming active in October and dead by the spring. According to the website, Vitrina pellucida is carnivorous, and it’s only difference with V. angelicae is anatomical. Vitrina pellucida (Müller, 1774) Western Glass-Snail Family: Vitrinidae. Species account author: Robert Forsyth. Introduction to the Land Snails of BC. Photograph. © Robert Forsyth (Photo ID #13431). Click to enlarge and view the photo details. View all photos for this taxon. Map. Distribution of Vitrina pellucida in British Columbia in British Columbia.