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SOME SNAILS OF THE GUNNISON NATIONAL FOREST*

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During the summer of 1934 the writer attended the session of the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory at Gothic, Colorado. During this time the bi-weekly field trips in ecology conducted by Dr. A. O. Weese were attended and a collection of land snails made from that region. Most of the collections were made within the limits of the Gunnison National Forest, in which the laboratory is located. Gothic is situated at the foot of Gothic Mountain and at an altitude of 9,500 ft. In the near vicinity are a number of mountain peaks ranging from 11,000 to 13,000 ft. in height, which are easily accessible for study on the daily field trips from

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TABLE I

Location	Altitude, Ft.	Name
Gothic Mt., E. slope	9,700	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell) Vitrina alaskana Dall Pupilla blandi (Morse) Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein) Radiodiscus millecostata P & F
Sylvanite Basin	10,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockerell) Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein)
Gothic Mt., N. slope	10,000	Vitrina alaskana Dall Radiodiscus millecostata P & F Zonitoides arboreus (Say)
Crested Butte Mt.	9,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockerell) Vitrina alaskana Dall Pupilla blandi (Morse) Zonitoides arboreus (Say) Radiodiscus millecostata P & F Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein)
Queen's Basin	11,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockerell) Vitrina alaskana Dall Radiodiscus millecostatus P & F
Virginia Peak, So. Slope	10,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell) Vitrina alaskana Dall Radiodiscus millecostatus P & F Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein)
Virginia Peak. top	12,400	Vertigo modesta parietalis Ancey Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein) Pupilla blandi (Morse)
Virginia Peak, N. slope	10,000	Vitrina alaskana Dall Pupilla blandi (Morse) Radiodiscus millecostatus P & F Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein)
Little R., South of Gothic	9,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell) Vitrina alaskana Dall Euconulus fulvus (Drap) Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein)
Virginia Peak, S. slope	10,500	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell) Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein) Radiodiscus millecostatus P & F
Mt. Avery	10,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell)
Red Mt.	10,000	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell) Succinea avera (Say) Gyralus parvus (Say)
White Rock Mt., S. W. slope	12,500	Oreohelix depressa (Cockrell) Pupilla blandi (Morse) Vallonia gracilicostata (Rein)

the station. The numerous subalpine and alpine habitats such as the dense forest, alpine meadow, or the almost barren granite tops of the mountain peaks make this an interesting place for field study.

Snails were collected at various places and records were made of the types of habitat and altitudes where they were found. The snails were almost always found under logs and rocks, an exception being *Oreohelix depressa* (Cockerell), which also could be found on the openly exposed ground or rocks. *Oreohelix depressa* (Cockerell), *Vitrina alaskana*, (Dall), *Vallonia gradilicostata* (Rein), *Radiodiscus millecostata* (P. & F), and *Pupilla blandi* (Morse) were found to be generally distributed over the entire range investigated. One specimen of *Vertigo modesta parietalis* (Ancey), was collected in association with *Vallonia gracilicostata* (Rein) and *Pupilla blandi* (Morse) from under a rock at the very top of Virginia Peak at an altitude of 12,400 ft. This variety was not taken at any other locality. Those specimens collected from Virginia Peak and the southwest slope of White Mountain (Table I) were above the alpine meadows, where there is a very small amount of vegetation. The collection from White Rock Mountain was made about 1,000 ft. from the top of the peak. No snails could be found higher than this point.

Snails were not found in great numbers in any locality. Many times a search of half an hour would be required for the collection of only a few specimens. It is interesting, however, that they can survive in places subjected to the severe weather conditions existing in such places as the top of Virginia Peak where the snow remains a good part of the year and the temperature drops to freezing almost every night.

Besides the specimens listed in Table I the writer collected one specimen of *Vertigo modesta* (Say) but unfortunately the data on it were lost. A small bivalve, *Pisidium lucidum*, (Sterki), was collected from a beaver pond on the side of Mt. Avery at an altitude of 10,000 ft. Water snails belonging to the genera *Limnaeus* and *Physa* were collected from ponds at Gothic and Crested Butte, Colorado, but the exact classifications of these specimens have not been determined. No aquatic snails could be found in the cold, rapid mountain streams. Table I does not include all places from which snails were taken but gives typical stations.

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