



## Mount Augustus Snail

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For the first time, the rare **Mount Augustus Snail (*Powelliphanta augusta* snail)** has been filmed **laying an egg from its neck**, revealing unique reproductive behavior.



- **Biology & Characteristics:** Endemic to New Zealand, it is among the **world's largest carnivorous land snails**. It is distinguished by its **vibrant, swirling shell patterns**.
  - This slow-growing species **preys on slugs and earthworms**. In captivity, it has a lifespan of **25 to 35 years**.
- **Reproduction:** It is **hermaphroditic (have both male and female organs)**, mating through **mutual sperm exchange** via a **genital pore on the neck**.
  - It reaches **sexual maturity at 8 years**, lays around **5 eggs annually**, and each egg takes **over a year to hatch**.
- **Threats & Habitat Loss:** Native only to **Mount Augustus (New Zealand)**, its habitat was destroyed by **coal mining** in the early 2000s.

### Snails:

- Snails are **mollusks** belonging to the **gastropod class**, easily identifiable by their **spiral shells**, which they retract into for protection or when resting.
- They are one of the two primary species in this class, with the other being **slugs**. The key difference between snails and slugs is the **presence of an external shell in snails, while slugs lack one**.

**Read More:** [New Species of Land Snail in Maharashtra.](#)

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