

Scientific note

First record of *Hygromia cinctella* (Draparnaud, 1801) in northern Portugal

(Gastropoda: Hygromiidae)

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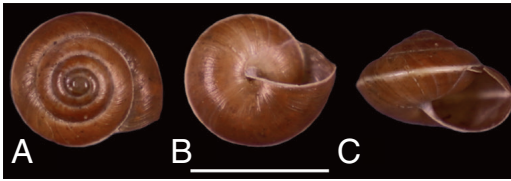


Fig. 1. Shell of *Hygromia cinctella*, MHNCUP-MOL-24648 (width 10.2 mm). **A.** Apical view. **B.** Ventral view. **C.** Apertural view. Scale bar = 10 mm.

Hygromia cinctella (Draparnaud, 1801) is an herbivorous land snail belonging to the family Hygromiidae. It inhabits areas among low shrubs and herbs in natural forests, near riverbanks and river valleys, but it can also be found in cultivated lands and urban gardens (Salvador et al. 2022). The species is native to the Mediterranean region, ranging from southeastern France to northwestern Croatia (Welter-Schultes 2012); however, its distribution is well documented throughout Europe (Cadevall & Orozco 2016, Salvador et al. 2022). In the Iberian Peninsula, it has been recorded from northeastern Spain, which is considered part of its natural range (Bros 2006, Dedov et al. 2015), whereas records from the Basque region (Gipuzkoa Province) and southern Spain (Cádiz) are thought to represent introduced populations (Jiménez & Pereira 2022). This gastropod is also present in New Zealand (Walton 2017).

The specimens (one adult and one juvenile) were found dead, with empty shells, near the banks of the Rio Sousa, under vegetation close to the stone walls of the Ponte de Espindo, Meinedo, Lousada (41°14'36.9"N, 8°16'25.3"W), on 30 July 2025. The shells exhibit the typical diagnostic features of the species, making them unlikely to be confused with any other species occurring in mainland Portugal: a weakly keeled last whorl, a very narrow (sometimes closed) umbilicus, and an oval aperture with a sharp lip. The sculpture consists of fine growth lines, and the shell

is slightly translucent with a brown coloration. Both specimens measure between 8 and 10 mm. They are stored in the malacology collection of Museum of Natural History and Science of the University of Porto, with the following catalog numbers MHNCUP-MOL-24648 (Fig. 1) and MHNCUP-MOL-24649.

This new record in Portugal reveals the presence of the species further southwest in Europe. The study of the malacofauna of Portugal is still incipient and requires further research to better understand the distribution of known species and to map invasive species that may affect local ecosystems.

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