

Polygyrid land snails, *Vespericola* (Gastropoda: Pulmonata), 4. A new and possibly extinct species from central California, U.S.A.

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Abstract

Vespericola ohlone **sp. nov.**, is described from material collected in the nineteenth century, probably around freshwater marshes in Alameda County, central California. No more recent collecting records have been found, and the species may be extinct. The new species differs from *Vespericola pilosus* (Henderson, 1928) in having its base produced and somewhat excavated around the umbilicus, the inner quadrant of the base with a small shelf set off by a spiral sulcus behind the basal lip, and the inner part of the basal lip angled, rather than gently curved, forward. The soft anatomy is unknown.

Key words: Mollusca, Gastropoda, Polygyridae, *Vespericola*, new species, taxonomy, extinction

Introduction

Roth and Miller (1993) reviewed the identity of Californian specimens of the land snail genus *Vespericola* Pilsbry, 1939, formerly referred to *V. columbianus* (Lea, 1838). They concluded that "*Vespericola columbianus pilosus*" (Henderson, 1928) was a distinct species, *V. pilosus*, with a range restricted to the San Francisco Peninsula. They observed that shells in museum samples from east of San Francisco Bay, in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, are more depressed and more widely umbilicate than those of *V. pilosus*, with the inner part of the basal lip angled rather sharply forward. Efforts since that time to locate living populations for anatomical data (including a request on the Mollusca Internet list) have been unsuccessful.

Anatomical characters are desirable for diagnosis of *Vespericola* species, but it seems unlikely that they will soon become available for this species. I have therefore chosen to describe the species on shell characters alone.