



## Glenn Robert Webb (1918–1999), his molluscan taxa, and his journal *Gastropodia* (1952–1994)

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### Abstract

Glenn Robert Webb (1918–1999) was a prolific author on the reproductive biology of the terrestrial pulmonates (Mollusca) of the United States. Webb published almost 110 papers, notes and abstracts, many containing detailed descriptions of the functional morphology and reproduction of these gastropods, which remain of value in resolving their phylogeny. Webb described two family-level names (both still considered valid), ten genus-level names (at least seven remain valid), and ten species-level names, all for terrestrial pulmonates. Webb also edited and published the journal *Gastropodia*, which appeared in thirteen issues, from 1952–1994, and contained extensive original research on the terrestrial pulmonates. Several other malacologists, notably Leslie Hubricht, also published articles and described new species in *Gastropodia*. This paper provides a biography of Webb, a complete bibliography of his publications, and a list of his taxa, along with a list of other authors' publications and new taxa in *Gastropodia*. Webb's research collection, including some type specimens, and his notebooks, are now housed in the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago.

**Key words:** Biography, Glenn Robert Webb

### Introduction: Biographical Sketch

Glenn Robert Webb was born on 22 May 1918, in Chicago (Illinois), the son of Lionel Omar Webb and Wanda Hey Webb. Webb's father worked primarily in the railway mail service, in the days when the mail was sorted on railroad cars. Webb later immortalized his mother by naming a new genus and a new species after her. Webb's youth was noted for its wide-ranging interests in natural history, but he later remarked that his mother was relieved when he gave up ophiology (the study of snakes) for the more placid study of terrestrial snails (Webb 1953: 216), which became the focus of the rest of his life. Herpetology's loss became malacology's gain. Sometime during Webb's youth, his parents moved to Indianapolis (Indiana), where he graduated from Shortridge High School in 1938. From 1938 to 1940, Webb took courses through the Extension Program at the Indiana University, Indianapolis. During this period, Webb went on collecting expeditions, typically by bicycle, to collect freshwater bivalves (Unionidae) from various rivers in Indiana. In 1942, Webb worked with Dr. William E. Ricker of the Indiana University and the Indiana Department of Conservation, as an assistant in a fisheries research project, where Webb had to count and record the various species of fish caught in Lake Muskellunge, Indiana.

During World War II, from October 19, 1942 to July 20, 1945, Webb served in the U.S. Army. He served in various units, finishing in the 395th Signal Corps, attached to the IX Engineer Command, in turn part of the