

A *Clausilia bidentata* with two apertures

by George Holm

The strange looking land snail from my collection is from Denmark and is a *Clausilia bidentata* (Ström, 1765). I like to refer to it as a Push-Me Pull-You, a name which I have borrowed from the story of Dr. Doolittle and the strange Llama type animal in it that has a head and front portion at either end.

The shell is small, 8 millimeters in length, and was among several of the same species which my brother, who lives in Denmark, collected for me. I was puzzled by this shell, which at first sight, had what appeared to be both a front and a back door apertures, but when I viewed it under my microscope, I was able to see that the lower aperture was a replacement and had been made by the animal as a result of damage done to the shell. In this instance, a hole had been punched in the shell which was large enough for the animal to get its body through and the animal, rather than repair the hole, had made a new aperture and closed off the old one from the inside.

The damage to the shell can be seen in fig. 1 and the new aperture is what looks like an ear on the side of the shell in fig. 2.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The specimen was collected by Karl Holm in August 1978, and was found under brush in a wooded area near Solbjerg Lake, Solbjerg, Jutland, Denmark.