

With Dr. Terry Frest on a mollusk survey and sampling trip to Idaho in 1990

by George P. Holm

In the fall of 1990 I was privileged to accompany Dr. Terry Frest on a mollusk survey and sampling trip to the Snake River in southeast Washington State and to the Salmon River and its tributaries in Idaho. Dr. Frest was contracted to find and identify the mollusk species of special concern in the interior Columbia River basin, and our trip would be a part of that ongoing study.

Our trip was to last for eight days and during that time Terry would check on known land and freshwater mollusk colonies and also try to locate new ones along the Salmon River in Idaho, particularly around the areas of Riggins and Lucille. We drove on most of the side roads in those areas, many of which followed tributary streams which flowed into the Salmon River. One day we drove up and over the high plateau of the Seven Devils Mountains to check on what mollusk sites might be there. Gas stations are few and far between in that remote area and although becoming stranded in the wilderness did seem a real and distinct possibility for an hour or more that day, I did reach the only gas station in a very small town mere minutes before it closed for the evening. That day I found out just how far my car could run on sweat and fumes. The last two days were spent checking on sites on the Washington State side of the Snake River including where the gold rush town of Rogersburg used to be.

While I drove, Terry would follow our route on his survey maps and would call for me to stop the car when we came to a known snail location or if he had seen what could be a likely new snail habit by spotting a dead snail at the side of the road (I was constantly amazed by his ability to do this).

Not only did I get to see a lot of spectacular countryside on that trip, but I learned a lot about the area's geology, ecology and history and most important to me at the time, I learned about the malacologists who had surveyed and collected in the area before us and who had first come across the snail colonies we were to look at. Great malacologists such as Henry Hemphill, H. B. Baker, Alan Solem and R. B. Brunson. I was eager to learn and Terry was a great teacher who willingly shared his knowledge with this novice.

Terry Frest and Edward Johannes, partners in Deixis consultants, would make more trips to the area and the final report of their study which they prepared for "Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management" was finished and submitted in January 1995. The 286 page report was issued as "Interior Columbia Basin Mollusks Of Special Concern". All land and freshwater mollusk species in the area, as well as some from outside the area are addressed. Included in the list are 94 new species or subspecies, some of which we found on the trip, and for which descriptions and/or comparisons are given. The report can be downloaded for free as a .pdf file from the internet.

INTERIOR COLUMBIA BASIN MOLLUSK SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN. Terrence J. Frest & Edward J. Johannes. January 15, 1995. Deixis Consultants.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

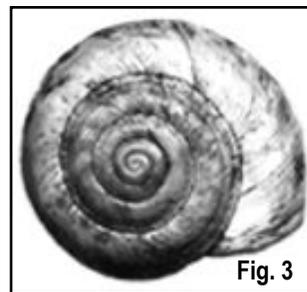


Fig. 3

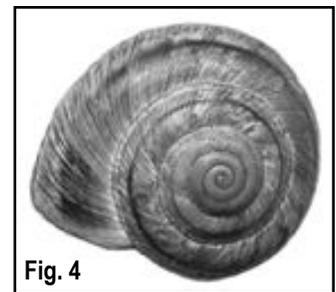


Fig. 4

The four *Oreohelix* specimens (figs. 1 - 4) were collected in Idaho on the above trip. Figures 1 and 2 are of the Rapid River mountainsnail, n. sp. 13 in the report. Figure 1 is of a normal adult specimen while figure 2 is of an unusual adult specimen of the same species with a loosely coiled and elevated spire. Figures 3 and 4 are Striate mountainsnail, *Oreohelix strigosa goniogyra* Pilsbry, 1933. Fig. 3 is a normally coiled but albino specimen. Fig. 4 is a normal color but sinistral coiled specimen which Terry Frest collected and gave to me. The images were created using a flat deck scanner and do show some slight image distortion.

Specimens in George P. Holm collection.