

THE MOLLUSC ATLAS PROJECT

This project was introduced to readers in *SANH:EIS*, volume 137, pp. 253–4 when the contributor appealed for further records. We can now give you some idea of the stage the project has reached.

Fig. 1 is a DMAP coincidence map showing tetrads for which records have been received. For practical purposes, a division factor of 7 has been used so if any figure is multiplied by 7 this will give the total number of species recorded since 1990 for that tetrad. For example, a 10 km square shows figures of 6 and 4 in tetrads T and Y respectively. Multiplied by a factor of 7 this provides aquatic and terrestrial species totals of approximately 42 and 28 for each.

It can be seen that some localities of Somerset, for example the Cheddar area, have been thoroughly surveyed, whereas many parts are as yet neglected. There are about 1,000 tetrads still to be surveyed. So far, two aquatic species new to Somerset have been

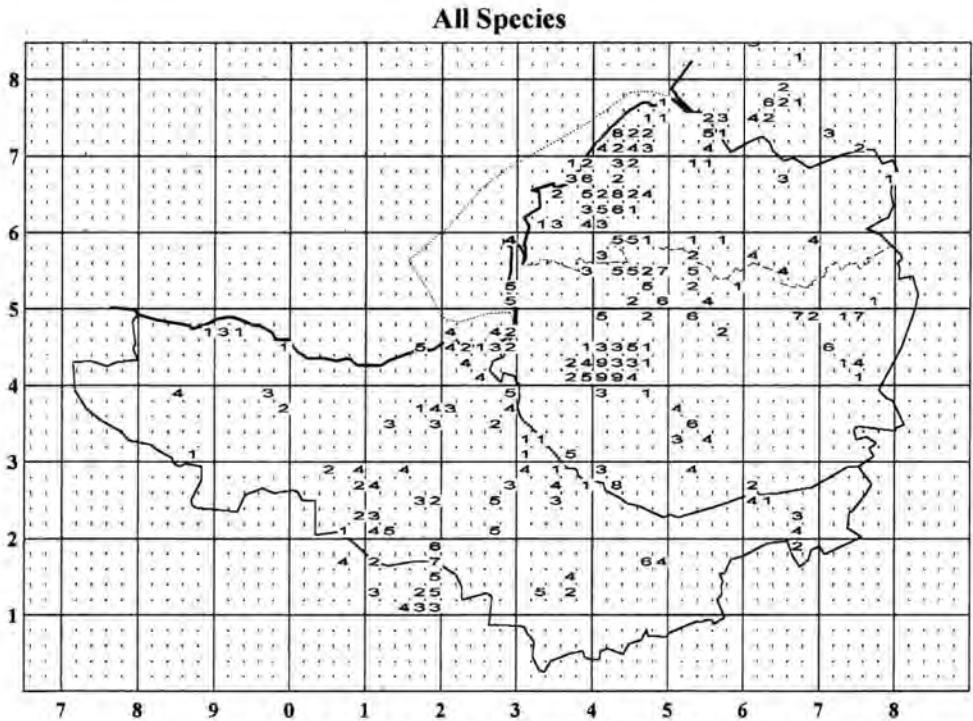


Fig. 1 Coincidence map showing tetrads surveyed and the numbers of species in each.

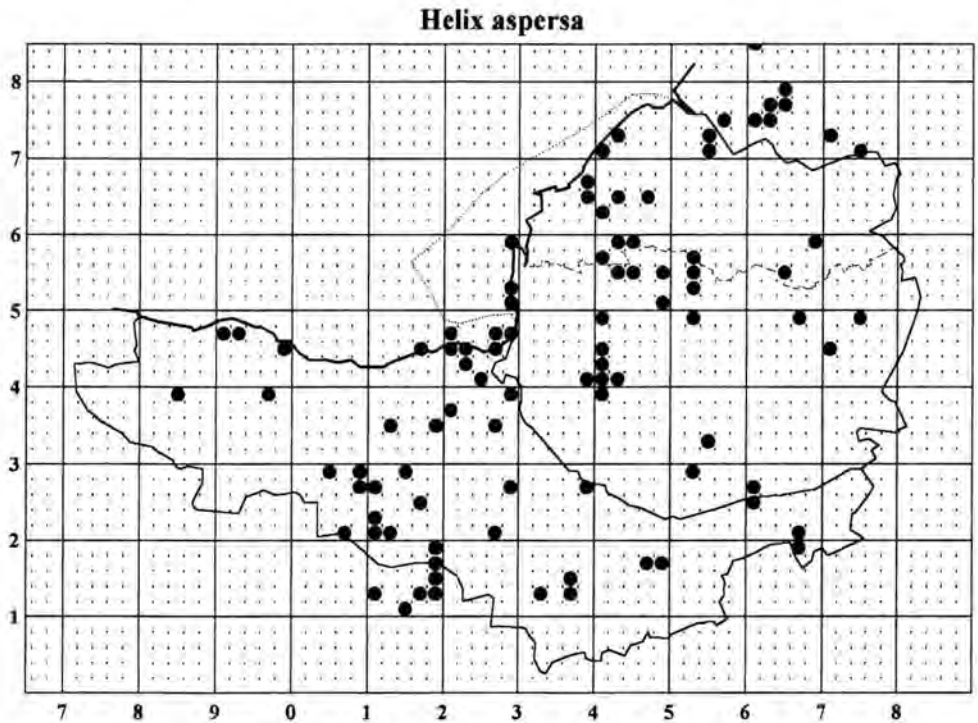


Fig. 2. Distribution map of *Helix aspersa*.

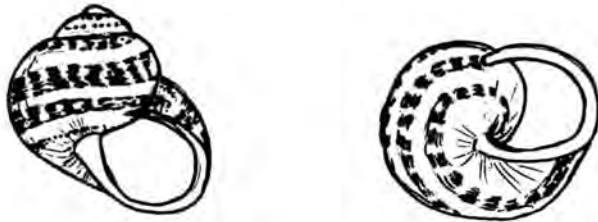


Fig. 3. *Helix aspersa*.

recorded. *Gyraulus laevis* has been found at Chilton Trinity Ponds near Bridgwater and South Moor near Glastonbury. The RDB2 (vulnerable) species *Valvata macrostoma* has been found in ten ditches on West Sedgemoor. The known sites for the RDB3 (rare) bivalve *Pisidium pseudosphaerium* continue to increase across the Somerset and Avon Levels and Moors – a good example of species distribution maps indicating distribution of researchers! In addition we have added Asham Wood as a new site record for the RDB3 *Ena montana*.

Fig. 2 is a DMAP distribution map for *Helix aspersa*, the Garden Snail (Fig. 3), with which we are all acquainted. It should be found in most, if not all, tetrads of the county,

so please start hunting and let us know where you find it. We need to know the name of the location with a six-figure grid reference. The snail is a common pest in gardens; its globular shell is 25–35 mm × 25–40 mm, with 4½–5 rapidly-expanding and slightly convex whorls. The umbilicus is completely hidden by the thickened lip of the large aperture. The shell colour is usually pale brown, occasionally yellow, with 0–5 dark spiral bands, rather variable and often flecked with white. It has a wrinkled texture. The snail is very common in limestone walls and rock outcrops, in gardens, but also in woods, hedgerows and dunes.

In Somerset there are enthusiasts for this invertebrate group who would be pleased to help with advice and identification. Please contact the Honorary Secretary of the Somerset Invertebrates Group, Mrs P. Hill-Cottingham, Mill House, 18 High Lane, Shapwick, Bridgwater, TA7 9NB (telephone Ashcott 210557).

Distribution maps are by courtesy of Dr Alan Morton.

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