

Photographing Snails and Slugs for Identification

A minimum of three photos are needed to help identify slugs and snails.

Slugs

View from **above** to show color and texture of the body and mantel.



Side profile of **RIGHT** side. This is where the pneumostome (breathing pore) is located.



Include the sole (**underside**) of the slug to show the color of the sole and the mucus.



Snails

View from **above** to show shape, color and texture of shell.



Side profile to show height of shell.



Include the **shell opening** to illustrate the shape of the aperture.



Slug dorsal view: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org; Snail dorsal view: Yuri Yashin, achatina.ru, Bugwood.org; Slug right side: Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org; Snail side profile: Dani Barchana, Bugwood.org; Slug underside: Backyard Nature; Snail aperture opening: Dan Dourson CGNH

General Photography Tips

- **Note the habitat,** time of day and weather that the slug or snail was found.



- **Brace your camera** hand to get clearer photos.



- **Include a small object** of known proportions for scale next to the slug or snail.



- **Crop the image** to bring attention to the slug or snail.



- Photograph on a solid or relatively **solid colored background**.



Photo credits:

African Giant Snail with pen: Yuri Yashin, achatina.ru, Bugwood.org; Snail in crop image example: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org; Slugs on busy background: Patrick R. Marquez, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org; Slug with simple background: Bonsak Hammeraas, NIBIO - The Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research, Bugwood.org