

# HELIX HORTENSIS.



## CHARACTER GENERICUS.

*Animal* Limax.

*Testa* univalvis, spiralis, subdiaphana, fragilis.

*Apertura* coarctata, intus lunata, f. subrotunda :  
segmento circulo dempto.

*Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 1241.

## CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

HELIX testa imperforata pallida, fasciis latis interruptis fuscis.

COCHLEA vulgaris major pulla maculata et fasciata hortensis.

*List. Angl.* tab. 2. fig. 2.

AN HELIX LUCORUM?

*Lin.*

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Militat omnis amans, et habet sua castra Cupido :  
Attice, crede mihi ; militat omnis amans.

*Ov.*

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Helix vulgaris, seu ut communiter vocatur, Cochlea, in numero est animalium quæ ob vilitatem, formamque fordiam et abjectam, a plerisque contemni et negligi solent ; in quibus tamen plura fortasse discernere



cernere potest physicus quæ delectationem admirationemque excitent, quam vel in majoribus animalibus. Cochlearum enim anatome adeo miraculis plena est, ut de variis illarum partibus integrum volumen posset componi. Cum vero longis ambagibus speciatim has minutias describere lectoribus plurimis molestum sit, breviter tantum illa percurremus memoratu dignissima. Oculi Cochlearum in summitatibus duorum longiorum tentaculorum, seu ut vulgo vocantur, cornuum siti sunt: quod licet a quibusdam physicis dubitatum sit, ab experimentis tamen et accuratissimis Swammerdamii investigationibus clare confirmatur: probatur quoque eos eisdem fere humores, tunicas, et vasa, quibus animalium majorum oculi instruuntur, continere. Non defuere qui Cochlearum cornua pro veris telescopiis naturalibus habuerunt, asserueruntque posse illas ea vel extendere vel contrahere pro distantia objecti ad quod oculos direxerint. Hæc autem idea structuram magis multimodam arguit, quam revera his organis tribuit Natura, et fortasse inter plurimas sit hæc hypothesis, quas ingenio suo indulgere solent nonnulli Naturæ speculatores.

Dentes Cochleæ sunt validi et acuti; omnesque corporis partes tam interiores quam exteriores ad animalis istius mores habitusque egregie accommodantur.

De miro generandi modo dicturus, lectores meos enixe orem necesse est ut nec me fabulas philosophicas fingere existiment, nec fidem suam deficere et imminui sinant.

Si quidem vera nobis referunt oculati Naturæ inter animalia inferiora investigatores, Cochlearum amores  
inufitato



inufitato et fibi peculiari quodam more promoventur ;  
semperque ipsum complexum præcedit mira formula,  
quæ pugnae statariæ faciem omnino exhibet.

Cochleæ lascivientes mutua vota telorum parvulo-  
rum ictibus, quæ peracuta sunt et quasi cornea, fibi  
invicem communicant ; illisque refertam pharetram  
exiguam, in dextro latere cervicis sitam, quamdiu per-  
manferit illis conjunctionis desiderium, intus gestant.  
Emisso primo telo, illico respondet Cochlea vulnerata,  
et simile in amantem jaculatur ; ab illa telum alterum  
emittitur, rursusque ipsa invicem percutitur ; Cupidi-  
nisque sagittæ, quas per omne ævum cecinit fervidum  
poetarum et amantium ingenium, in ipsa tandem Na-  
tura revera inveniuntur. Peraçto hoc lepidò prælio,  
cocunt Cochleæ, et deinde locum idoneum ubi ova sua  
deponant sollicitè quæritant ; humidum nempe et opa-  
cum recessum, vel sub terræ gleba, vel cavo aliquo teg-  
mine. Rotunda sunt hæc ova, magnitudine fere pifo-  
rum parvulorum, coloris albi subpellucens, et sub-  
stantiæ mollis. Ex his excluduntur Cochleæ plene  
formatæ, testas suas in dorso ferentes, nec ullam aliam  
mutationem præter naturale molis incrementum sube-  
unt. Hortis et pomariis damnum non leve inferre so-  
lent Cochleæ, et notatu dignum est, illas, si defecerit  
cibus succulentus, fructus nempe aut folia, corpora  
etiam dura et sicca rodere : memini enim egomet He-  
licem hortensem, (qualis est illa quæ hic depingitur,)   
sub vitro cujus diameter quatuor uncias superabat in-  
clusam, substratam chartam communem cæruleam una  
nocte usque ad ipsius vitri marginem devorasse ; circu-  
lo relicto velut ab ipso circino designato.



Ab experimentis Spallanzanii aliorumque probatur, Cochleas, abscissa aliqua parte, repullulandi facultatem habere : ipse enim Spallanzanius Cochleæ caput abscidit, quod, elapso certo tempore perfecte regerminabat. Hujus experimenti veritas, licet a nonnullis denegetur, ab aliorum tamen doctissimorum physicorum testimonio satis comprobatur.

Quanquam variis intervallis sagittas suas jaculentur Cochleæ, fatendum tamen est tabulam repræsentare illas plus æquo a se invicem remotas. Plerumque propius accedunt; immo interdum fit ut telum ipsum, gladii instar, in corpore opposito infixum stet, dum Cochlea quæ jaculum emisit, recedit paululum, sagittam quasi commilitonis sui expectans.







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THE  
GARDEN SNAIL.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

The *Animal* a Slug.  
*Shell* spiral, sub-pellucid.  
*Aperture* semi-lunar.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

SNAIL with a shell of a pale colour, with broad interrupted bands of brown.

The COMMON GARDEN SNAIL.

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See to the fight the gentle warriors move,  
And dart with harmless force the shafts of love!

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The Snail is amongst the number of those animals which we are apt to overlook on account of their seemingly contemptible appearance, but which will perhaps open to our attentive survey a greater variety of curious particularities than most other creatures can exhibit. The anatomy of the snail is full of wonders, and a volume might be written on its history; but, without descending to a tedious narrative of all its parts, I shall only mention a few of the most remarkable ones. The eyes of Snails are situated on the tips of the two longest horns, and though their existence  
has



has been questioned by some Naturalists, yet the accurate research of SWAMMERDAM has sufficiently proved their real nature, and that they are furnished with nearly the same humours, coats, and vessels as in most of the larger animals. Some authors have supposed the horns to be a kind of natural telescopes, and that the animal shortened or lengthened them according to the distance of the objects to which it directed them; but this idea seems to imply a more complicated structure than can be found in this organ, and, I believe, must be given up as one of those ingenious hypotheses which are too frequently entertained by speculative enquirers.

The teeth of the Snail are sharp and strong, and all the internal as well as external parts of the creature are admirably calculated by Nature for the mode of life to which it is destined.

But the most wonderful part of the history of the Snail, is its manner of breeding; and I must request my readers to summon all their philosophical faith to receive the surprising particulars.

If the observations of the most profound enquirers into the operations of Nature amongst the lower orders of animals may be depended upon, the amours of Snails are conducted in a manner very different from those of most other creatures, and are always preceded by a very extraordinary ceremonial, which has all the appearance of a regular combat.

When these animals are disposed to love, they signify their mutual wishes by launching several little darts at each other. These darts are of a very sharp form, and of a horny substance, and the animals are provided with



with a little quiver or reservoir of them during the breeding season: this internal quiver or repository of the darts is situated within the neck, and opens externally on the right side. Upon the discharge of the first dart, the wounded Snail immediately retaliates upon the aggressor, and discharges a similar one; the other again renews the battle, and is again in its turn wounded; and thus the darts of Cupid, so long and loudly celebrated by poets and lovers, and which are metaphorical with all the rest of the creation, are here completely realized. When the animals have continued for some time the combat just described, a reconciliation takes place, and they unite; after which they are solicitous to deposit their eggs in a place of safety. For this purpose they choose a moist, cool situation, generally under some little clod, or in some small sheltered cavity, in which they place them: they are perfectly round; about the size of very small pease, of a semi-transparent white colour, and of a soft substance: from these the young are hatched completely formed, and with their shells on their backs, and undergo no farther change than a gradual increase of size.

The depredations which these animals commit in gardens and orchards is very considerable, and it is remarkable that in defect of moist succulent food, as fruit and tender leaves, they will even attack substances of a hard and dry nature. I have known the common garden Snail here figured, when confined for one night under a glass of more than four inches in diameter, which was placed on a sheet of common blue paper, entirely devour the whole paper contained in the included



ded space, to the very edge of the glass, so that a circular piece seemed almost as accurately taken out, as if marked by a pair of compasses.

From the experiments of SPALLANZANI and others, it appears that Snails are possessed of a very considerable degree of reproductive power. SPALLANZANI in particular, has found that the whole head of a Snail may be cut off, and yet in a certain space of time will be reproduced. This has been denied by some, but its truth is established by experiments conducted by the most careful and accurate observers.

It is necessary to add, that the Snails in the annexed plate, are represented at somewhat too great a distance from each other; this is a circumstance which admits of great variation, but in general the animals make a nearer approach before they dart their spicula; and in some particular instances they have been known to approach so near during this action, that the dart has been infixed in the manner of a sword, in which case the animal that discharged it, withdraws again to some little distance, and seems to wait for a similar attack.





Shaw, George. 1790. "The Garden Snail, *Helix hortensis* [Pl. 30]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 1(X), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310682>.

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