

Hippeutis complanatus Linnaeus, 1758 in Algeria, re-found after more than 150 years

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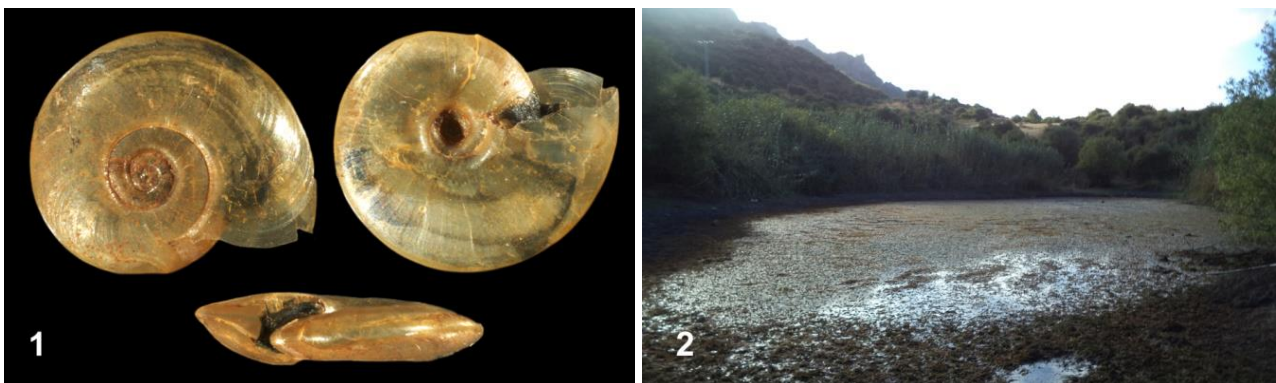
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Hippeutis complanatus is a planorbisid snail living in stagnant waters, rich in vegetation. It is distributed from Europe to W-Asia (Glöer 2002: 279). Morelet (1853: p. 293) was the first who mentioned *Hippeutis complanatus* from Algeria, a forma minor from the vicinity of Rossauta [currently Bordj El Kifan (Algiers)]. In 1864, Bourguignat listed this species also from Algeria (p. 151: “près de la Maison-Carrée (Lallemand)” [currently EL harrache, district of Algier]).

In 1984 van Damme mentioned Bourguignat’s finding as a relict population (p. 38: “In NW Africa one relict population was recorded by Bourguignat (1864) from Rossauta (now an urbanized suburb of Algiers)” but mentioned Morelet’s sampling site. While Kristensen (1985) did not mention *H. complanatus* in his identification key, Brown (1994: 504) listed this species as being extinct in NW-Africa.

Van Damme & Seddon (2011) wrote in their IUCN Red List: “This species is distributed across most of mainland Europe and is found in local populations in North Africa. It is reported from Siberia, the Caspian Basin, Armenia and Turkey (D.V. Damme pers. comm. 2011). Unfortunately the authors did not say where *H. complanatus* has been found in North Africa, in Morocco, Algeria or Tunisia.



Figures 1-2. 1: Shell of *Hippeutis complanatus*, 2: The habitat of the sampling site.

Recently RR found a new sample of *Hippeutis complanatus* (fig. 1) in the region of Tizi-Ouzou, about 100 km far from Algier.

The sampling site: The sampling site is a pond (Agulmim u sardun = local name, fig. 2). It is located in Kabylia region (Tizi-Ouzou), northern Algeria (36°48'14''N, 4°00'35''E), at an altitude of 460 m. The pond is 85 m long, 30 m wide and has maximum depth of 2 m.

The Habitat: Its fresh water originates from rains and probably natural sources, as it does not dry in summer and no river reaches into. The pond is slightly polluted, by some human influence and is rich in vegetation.

Additional species: *Bulinus truncatus* (MICHAUD, 1829), *Ferrissia californica* (ROWELL, 1863), *Musculium lacustris* (O.F. Müller, 1774).

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