

Two new records of land snails attacked by glow-worms

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On March, 14, 1973, the author collected a large number of living *Spbincterochila cariosa* (Olivier, 1804) in the hills between Latrun and Sha'ar HaGay, Israel. On careful inspection of the collected material, one specimen was found to be attacked by a larva of a glow-worm (Coleoptera: Lampyridae).

This specimen and three other living snails were isolated from the rest in a cardboard box. When the box was inspected several days later, all the snails were found killed by the larva. The glow-worm had attacked them by penetrating the epiphragms which sealed the apertures. However, in one specimen an oval hole of 2.3×1.5 mm was found in the shell below the periphery of the last whorl.

A second record of a glow-worm attacking a land snail was received from Mr. Philip Cambridge (in litt.). During a stay on Malta he observed how a species of Lampyridae attacked a living *Eobania vermiculata* (Müller, 1774).

The snail-eating habits of glow-worms are well-known. In their review Wild & Lawson (1937) reported predation by the glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca* (Linnaeus, 1758) on *Vitrea crystallina* (Müller, 1774), *Cerneuella virgata* (Da Costa, 1778), *Monacha cantiana* (Montagu, 1803), *Theba pisana* (Müller, 1774), *Cepaea nemoralis* (Linnaeus, 1758), and *Helix aspersa* Müller, 1774. More relevant data are scattered

throughout the literature; attention is drawn to e.g., Williams (1951:314).

It would be interesting to know whether predation by glow-worms on a population of land snails is of any significant influence on the size of that population.

REFERENCES

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