

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

### Scarletback Taidropper

*Prophysaon vanattae*

A member of the family Arionidae (“roundback slugs”), this species is also referred to as “scarlet-mantled” taidropper. *Prophysaon* or “taidropper” slugs are “pulmonate” (air breathing through an internalized lung-like structure), terrestrial mollusks. Species in this genus are capable of “autotomy” (self-amputation) of a portion of their caudal area (tail), a mechanism to confuse or elude predators. The amputated tail portion may regenerate later.



William P. Leonard



William P. Leonard



Form with pale mantle Kristiina Ovaska



Kristiina Ovaska

## Characteristics

*Length 2.5 to 5 cm.* Terrestrial slugs can be quite variable in colour and patterning. Generally, scarletback tailed slug is reddish in colour (especially dorsally – but not always), grey-buff along the sides, with two conspicuous dark bands running laterally from the mantle to the tail. These bands define a wedge-shaped lighter dorsal area which may enclose a (sometimes faint), dark dorsal stripe at midline. The sole (bottom of foot), is usually cream colored but can be grey. The pneumostome (pore used for air breathing) is located at or in front of the midline of the mantle covering the right side. The tail often has oblique constrictions (not always), that mark the area where autotomy has occurred. A mucus pore usually found on the tail area of other slugs is absent.

## Status

**Global Status:** G4  
**Provincial Status:** S4S5  
**BC List Status:** Yellow (Not at risk of extinction)

## Resources

**[DRAFT Gastropod Best Management Practices Guidebook: Oregon Forest snail and other land snails at risk Coastal Lowlands of BC](#)**

**[Michigan Tech University: Bryophyte Ecology: BRYOLOGICAL INTERACTION-Chapter 4-6 Invertebrates Mollusks](#)**

## For further information see

**[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)**

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

**[British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern](#)**

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

**[Develop With Care Guidelines \(see Lower Mainland Region section\)](#)**

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

**[Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC](#)**

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

**[E-Flora the electronic atlas of the Flora of BC](#)**

A volunteer-driven GIS-based biogeoclimatic atlas of the vascular plants, fungi, algae, bryophytes and lichens of BC.

**Source URL:** <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/scarletback-taildropper>

## Links

[1] <http://sccp.ca/printpdf/85>

[2] [http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/BMP%20OFS%20August%202008\\_1.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/BMP%20OFS%20August%202008_1.pdf)

[3] <http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/4->

[6Invertebrates\\_Mollusks%20michigan%20tech%20university%20biology%20department-.pdf](http://sccp.ca/sites/default/files/species-habitat/documents/4-6Invertebrates_Mollusks%20michigan%20tech%20university%20biology%20department-.pdf)

[4] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[5] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[6] [http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop\\_with\\_care\\_intro.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)

[7] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>