

Giant African Land Snail

Invertebrate - has no backbone

Mollusc - unsegmented soft body, a shell (internal or external), a toothed tongue and a muscular foot

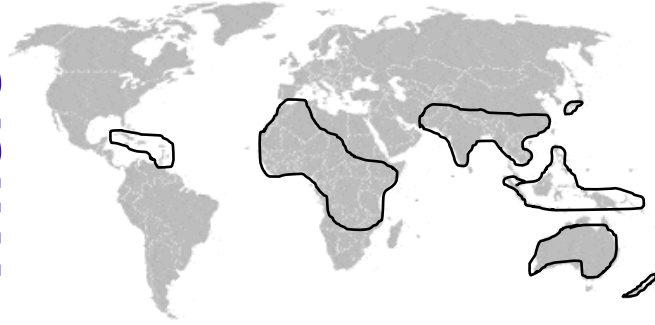


Habitat

Lives in a tropical climate where it is hot and humid. It prefers to be on edges of forests but can survive in a wide range of places.



Where



Diet

HERBIVORE

They eat living or dead plant matter. Up to 500 different types of plant are eaten including farmers crops.



Protection from predators

During the day they bury under the ground to hide from predators. Their hard shell also helps protect them.

Behaviour

They are active at night.

Nocturnal

They burrow underground for shelter. In hot or cold conditions they seal themselves into their shell (called aestivation). This can last for up to 3 years.

Interesting facts

A gland at the front of the foot produces slime for the muscular foot to move over.

They have a toothed tongue called a radula which has tiny hooks. It uses this to scrape off bits of food.

The spirals on the shell are called whorles. A snail grows a new whorl for every year of growth.



They can grow to be up to 20cm long and adults weigh about 32g.

[Snail shape stories](#)

[Natural snail art](#)