SNAILS at Aston's Eyot

Snails have sometimes featured in our calendars, but until 2024 they had not been looked at by a snail expert. In June 2024 Alessandro Nota, an Italian student working for a certificate in Ecological Survey Techniques (Oxford University Department for Continuing Education), sampled eight 4x4m square quadrats on the Eyot. It was in a dry period, so some species may have been missed - Anthony Cheke, 31/12/2024.

Date of sampling: 14 June 2024 **RED = alien species**

Species	English name	Abundance (No. of specimens in the 8 quadrats)
Aegopinella nitidula	Waxy Glass Snail	102
Arianta arbustorum	Orchard Snail	5
Cepaea hortensis	White-lipped Snail	12
Cepaea nemoralis	Brown-lipped Snail	29
Cochlicopa lubrica	Slippery Moss Snail	3
Cornu aspersum (1)	Garden Snail	2
Discus rotundatus	Rounded Snail	9
Hygromia cinctella	Girdled Snail	2
Monacha cantiana	Kentish Snail	15
Oxychilus alliarius	Garlic Snail	21
Oxychilus navarricus (2)	Glossy Glass Snail	2
Oxychilus cfr *cellarius*	Cellar Glass Snail	3
Trochulus spp. *(3)*	hairy snails	182

Notes:

1. Better known as *Helix aspersa*, but recently reclassified. It is widely considered to have been introduced by the Romans, but there are a few apparently earlier records, though the likely incorporation of ancient carbon in shells (from chalk or limestone) renders Carbon-14 dating unreliable.
2. Formerly known as *O.helveticus*, but recently merged with the southern European *O.navarricus*.
3. Formerly in the genus *Trichia*; *Trochulus* spp. includes both *T. striolatus* (Strawberry Snail) and *T. hispidus* (Hairy Snail).