

ASHFORDIA GRANULATA (HYGROMIIDAE) LIVING IN NORTHERN FRANCE

Ashfordia granulata (Alder, 1830) is primarily known from Great-Britain¹, with a few records from Brittany², Cotentin³ and also from N.W. Spain⁴. According to Kerney and Cameron², the distribution of this species is lusitanic.

In February 2004 a small, but stable, population of *Ashfordia granulata* was recorded from Fort-Mahon-Plage (Dept. Somme), 30 km West from Abbeville. All the specimens were observed

in the leaf litter of the Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), at the foot of a sea wall defence. All living specimens observed were juvenile snails and all the adults were dead shells. Amongst other common associates of *Ashfordia granulata* a stable population of *Vertigo angustior* was noted at this new site. The habitat was similar to those of populations found in eastern Great Britain. According to Kerney¹, the Silky snail is restricted

in eastern Great Britain to marshy ground in river valleys and this recent find is located in the Bay of Authie River, a small coastal river.

This locality thus represents a considerable extension of the continental distribution of the species to the North and provides the most northern population in France to date.

¹KERNEY, M.P. 1999 *Atlas of the land and freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland*

²KERNEY & CAMERON 1999 *Guide des escargots et limaces d'Europe* Delachaux & Niestlé, Lausanne.

³MAZURIER, M. & COCHARD, P.-O 2003 *Lettre de Germain* 4: 1-6.

⁴ALTONOGA, K. *et al.* 1994 *Estudio faunístico y biogeográfico de los Moluscos terrestres del norte de la Península Iberica.*

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