Greater Semi-slug *Phenacolimax major* in Hunthouse Wood, Worcestershire.

Gary Farmer

In a previous issue of *Worcestershire Record* (Farmer 2014) I mentioned finding a 'new' millipede *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* at Hunthouse Wood Nature Reserve. During the same visit I photographed an odd snail found near to the millipede. It was not until sometime later that I looked through my photographs again and came across the picture taken 21st March 2015 (01). The mantle of the snail extended across part of the shell making it a semi-slug. The pictures in *Slugs of Britain and Ireland* (Rowson et al 2014) suggested *Phenacolimax major,* the Greater Semi-slug, and its distribution is noted as "rare in southern England and South Wales".

01 The Greater Semi-slug *Phenacolimax major* , Hunthouse Wood, Worcestershire. Gary Farmer

I emailed my photo to Rosemary Hill of the Conchological Society of Great Britain & Ireland with the question "Is it possible to split *Vitrina pellucida* and *Phenacolimax major* from a photo?" She confirmed that the image did look like *P. major* and decided to search the area herself to see if she could find any others. She later reported that she "first found three empty shells, of which I believed two to be *P. major* and one to be *Vitrina pellucida*! I continued searching and found one live *P. major*!"

I do wonder how many more rarities are sitting on people's hard-drives waiting to be discovered. With the ease of use and immediate results we get from digital photography it is too easy to file things to look at later (or never). So this is a lesson: take pictures but remember to look at and enjoy wildlife in the flesh, not just on a screen later.

References
Farmer, G. 2014. *Craspedosoma rawlinsii* Leach, a new millipede for Worcestershire. *Worcestershire Record* 38:20.
Rowson B., Turner, J., Anderson, R. & Symondson, B. 2014. *Slugs of Britain and Ireland.* Field Studies Council Publications, Telford.

Image
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