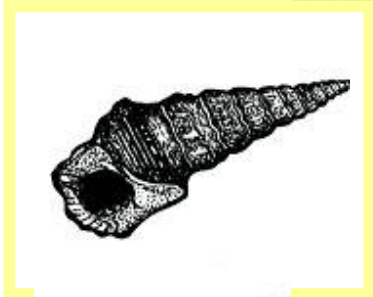


Gastropods (univalves)



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The opening (aperture) of the shell is rather large. This prevents the animal from sinking in the soft mud.



MUD WHELKS

Telescopium telescopium

Mud whelks are common snails found in large numbers on the surface of the mud where they feed on algae and detritus. (decomposing plants and animals) They are able to live out of water for long periods of time when the tide is out. Oysters and barnacles sometimes attach themselves to mud whelk shells. Mud Whelks lay gelatinous egg strips, with the larvae being planktonic.

The species found at Holloway's is only common throughout northern Australia. Sometimes you will find some parts of the underneath of the shell corroded away from the acidic mud.

Mud Whelks are edible and can be prepared by roasting in a fire or by boiling water.