

Gastropods (univalves)

MOON SNAIL

Nerita lineate



Moon snail shells live in a wide variety of habitats. At Holloway's Beach Environmental Education Centre you will find them mainly living in the hollows and crevices of mangrove trees.

They are small to medium (3cm) in length with a roundish, thick ribbed shell and large "half moon" shaped aperture or opening.

Moon snails seal off their aperture with their thick operculum (hard, plate-like cover) after the snail is retracted inside. They feed on algae and algal slime growing on mangrove trees. The shells move around to graze during the night and return to the same resting place each day.

Moon snails lay dome-shaped egg masses which attach to solid objects like logs.

They are eaten after boiling by using a sharp instrument to pull the flesh out of the shell.