

Adult vs. juvenile snails: How to tell them apart



We only want you to hunt for adult snails in this survey, because juvenile snails do not have a fully-formed shell lip. Without a fully formed-lip on the snail shell it is difficult to be sure which species they belong to

Telling the difference between adult and juvenile snails is easy, there are just two keys things to look for:

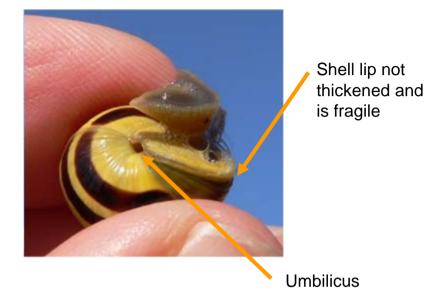
- Adult snails have a thickened lip around the edge of the shell mouth which is slightly turned out at the top. Juvenile snail shells end in a fragile, un-thickened edge at the mouth.
- Juvenile snails have a slit like hole on the underside of their shell called an umbilicus, which adult snails do not have.

Adult snails are larger than juvenile snails, and shell size usually ranges from 20-24mm across for adult *Cepaea nemoralis* and 17-20mm across for adult *Cepaea hortensis*.

If you cannot tell whether a particular snail is an adult or juvenile, it is best to leave it out of your sample.

Go to www.evolutionmegalab.org to add your data!

Juvenile Cepaea



Adult Cepaea

