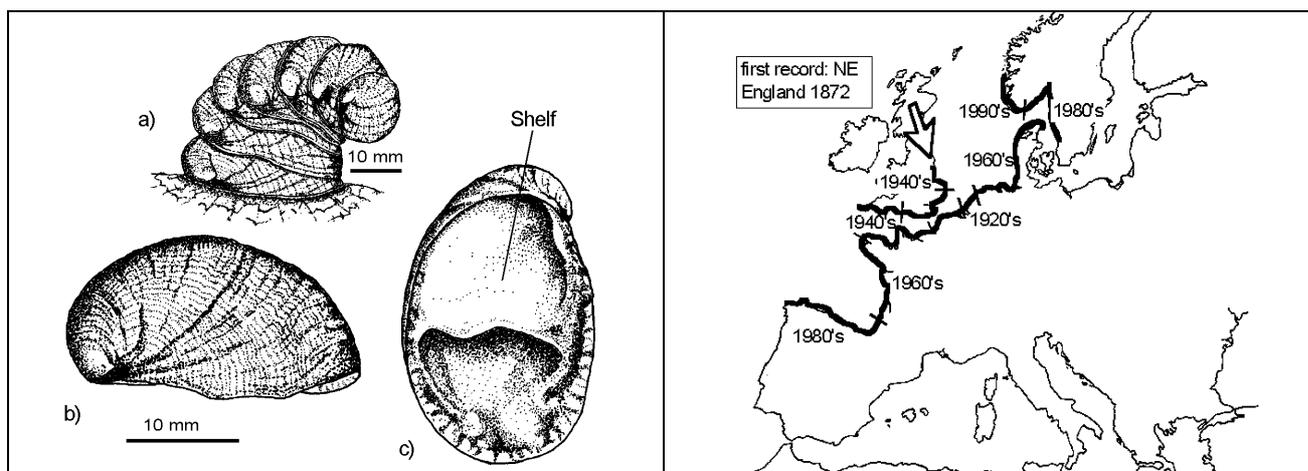


***Crepidula fornicata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**, Calyptraeidae, Gastropoda

Common names: Slipper limpet, Crepidule

Marine and estuarine snail



*Crepidula fornicata*. a) Chain of seven limpets on oyster, b) outside, c) inside.

Known coastal distribution of *Crepidula fornicata*.

**Impact:**

(\* = possibly harmful, \*\* = harmful, \*\*\* = very harmful, ? = not known, \$ = beneficial)

Resources/Environment			Uses of the Sea		
Commercial stocks	***	Trophic competition	Fisheries	**	Reduced growth
Other biota	**		Aquaculture	***	Reduced growth
Human health	?		Water abstractions	?	Possible fouling
Water quality	**	Reduced food in water	Aquatic transport	?	
Habitat modification	***	Changes in benthos	Tourism	*	Changed environment
Special considerations			Others	\$	Shells can provide settlement surfaces for oysters

**Vulnerable habitats:** Enclosed bays, estuaries and shallow channels in oyster growing areas and ports, from lowest water to about 10m or more in depth, particularly where there are shells, stones or rock.

**Biology:** Hatches as a free-swimming larvae. It develops firstly into a crawling male and seeks to attach to the shell of a female, where it remains. The male stage, which normally lasts two years, gradually transforms to become a female and further males may become attached in turn to form chains of individuals of up to about 12, with the oldest limpet at the base. About one individual a year is added to a chain. Individuals can attain about 50mm x 25mm after 4-5 years. Females may produce 200,000 eggs annually with up to three broods of larvae per year in northern Europe. Solitary males may become females earlier and may be capable of self-fertilisation. It is potentially capable of becoming established in all warm temperate and Mediterranean regions of the world in estuaries and marine inlets. Native to the east-coast of North America.