

## Intertidal Carnivorous Snails



Scientific Name

***Lirabuccinum dirum***

Common Name(s)

**Dire whelk**

Habitats

**Intertidal to 35m**

Distribution

**Alaska USA to California**

Abundance in Puget Sound

**Common**



Scientific Name

***Nucella lamellosa***

Common Name(s)

**Wrinkled dogwinkle**

Habitats

**Intertidal to 10m**

Distribution

**Alaska USA to California**

Abundance in Puget Sound

**Common**



Scientific Name

***Ocenebrellus inornatus***

Common Name(s)

**Japanese oyster drill**

Habitats

**Intertidal**

Distribution

**Japan, BC, Washington, California**

Abundance in Puget Sound

**Invasive: variable**

# Field Guide for the Salish Sea

Robert C. Williams

## Intertidal Carnivorous Snails

Scientific Name

***Lirabuccinum dirum***

Synonyms

***Searlesia dira, Kelletia dira***

Taxonomy (Phylum, Class, Order, Family)

Mollusca, Gastropoda, Neogastropoda, Chalcidoidea

Similar species

*Acanthina spirata, Nucella canaliculata*

Distinguishing Characters

A siphonal canal that is only about 1/4 the length of the aperture, a horny operculum, and a shiny columella without any folds

Natural History Information

A active predatory snail, which prefers injured prey. May live 15 years. The shell is a favorite of the hermit crab *Pagurus granosimanus*.

Scientific Name

***Nucella lamellosa***

Synonyms

***Thais lamellosa***

Taxonomy (Phylum, Class, Order, Family)

Mollusca, Gastropoda, Neogastropoda, Armadilloidea

Similar species

*Nucella emarginata, Nucella canaliculata*

Distinguishing Characters

Highly variable in shape, color, texture. Color: white, orange or brown. Spiral sculpture consists of 1 or 2 prominent ridges per whorl

Natural History Information

Uses its radula to scrape through the shell and eat out the soft flesh of barnacles and mussels.

Scientific Name

***Ocenebrellus inornatus***

Synonyms

***Ceratostoma inornatum***

Taxonomy (Phylum, Class, Order, Family)

Mollusca, Gastropoda, Neogastropoda, Muricidae

Similar species

*n/a*

Distinguishing Characters

Variable shell sculpture.

Natural History Information

An introduced species of major commercial aquaculture concern, which preys heavily upon native and non-native oysters by drilling into them with its radula. It is a prohibited species in the state of Oregon and in the state of Washington you need a permit to transport the species.

**Intertidal Carnivorous Snails**



Scientific Name

***Nucella canaliculata***

Common Name(s)

**Channelled Dogwinkle**

Habitats

**Intertidal**

Distribution

**Alaska USA to California**

Abundance in Puget Sound

**Common**

## Intertidal Carnivorous Snails

Scientific Name

***Nucella canaliculata***

Synonyms

***Thais canaliculata, Purpura canaliculata***

Taxonomy (Phylum, Class, Order, Family)

Mollusca, Gastropoda, Neogastropoda, Nucellidae

Similar species

*Nucella lima*

Distinguishing Characters

Heavy spiral ribs. *Nucella lima* looks similar except for fine ribs between the heavy ribs

Natural History Information

Specialized for feeding on barnacles.