

# Sand Snail

*Polinices sp.*



## Adaptation to environment

- Very hard shell protects from pounding surf & predators
- Keeps itself buried just below the surface, ploughing through the sand & leaving a broad trail
- Its radula (toothed tongue) allows it to drill holes in other hard-shelled creatures
- Can withdraw into shell and close its “operculum” (shell door) to seal in moisture or avoid enemies.

# Feeding relationships

Where do I live?  Sandy Beaches

## What do I eat?

- Carnivorous: feeding mainly on bivalves like pipis: a small hole is drilled with their radula (abrasive tongue) assisted by acid secretions: proboscis is inserted to suck out the insides; many shells found on beach have small holes drilled by these snails.

## What eats me?

- Various crustaceans (crabs & lobsters)
- Shorebirds, rodents that forage on shoreline.

- Thick, smooth-shelled snail with large aperture closed with horny operculum
- Common in clean sand in areas of strong water movement, especially surf zone
- Produces firm jelly egg masses in which hundreds of eggs are suspended (often mistaken for jellyfish).