

# THE AMERICAN BIOLOGY TEACHER



## About Our Cover

The Painted Snail (*Polymita picta*) is one of the most recognizable species of land snails. The inch-and-half long species is endemic to eastern Cuba. Like many species in the family Cepolidae, and in the genus *Polymita* in particular, Painted Snails display an array of stunning, contrasting colors. The range of shell color variation within Painted Snails involves the background color as well as the colors, location, and dimensions of the spiral bands that embellish the shells.

The Ryker mount in the photo, on display at the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum on Sanibel, Florida, parades a variety of Painted Snails from eastern Cuba, most likely from the Oriente Province. The snails were a late-1930s gift from Dr. Carlos de la Torre to Dr. William J. Clench, noted mid-Century malacologist from the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. De la Torre, himself a malacologist, was at one time President of the University of Havana and Mayor of the City of Havana.

The photo was taken by José H. Leal, Ph.D., Science Director and Curator of the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum in Sanibel, Florida.

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RECOMMENDED  
FOR AP Biology



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