

**IDENTITY: *Limicolaria aurora* (Jay, 1839)**

**Systematics:** ACHATINIDAE, PULMONATA, GASTROPODA, MOLLUSCA

**Common names:** -



**DESCRIPTION:**

**Dimensions:** Up to 6 cm in height, and 2.8 cm in maximum diameter.

**Description:** “Shell oblong-ovate, narrowly umbilicate, the edge of the umbilicus subangulate, rather thin, white or flesh coloured under a thin, pale yellow cuticle. Surface not glossy when unworn, slightly wrinkled with growth striae, rather indistinctly decussate with spiral impressed lines; crenate below the suture. Spire a little attenuate above, the apex obtuse. Whorls 9 to 9½ moderately convex. Aperture slightly oblique, white inside; outer lip simple, columella vertical, straight, cylindrical, the edge well reflexed.” (Crowley & Pain, 1970, after Pilsbry, 1904). The form established in Martinique is characterized by reddish-brown axial flammules.

**Reported distribution:** West Africa: Guinea to Nigeria, Cameroun and Gabon; established in Martinique.

**HOSTS:** As a phytophagous gastropod, this species is not host-specific. It has been documented as causing economic damage to a variety of crop plants.

**GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION:**

**Original distribution:** believed native to **West Africa (Guinea to Nigeria, Cameroun and Gabon).**

**Introduced to:**

**WEST INDIES:** Saint Esprit, **Martinique** (sometime after 1986) by Martinicans who had lived in West Africa;

**LIFE HISTORY:**

Unknown.

**MOVEMENT AND DISPERSAL**

**Natural spread:** Natural spread is extremely slow.

**Man-assisted spread:** Transportation on local produce, and intentional spread by individuals. Sometimes found in commercial shipments from Nigeria.

**PEST SIGNIFICANCE**

**Economic impact:** Crops affected by two closely related species, *Limicolaria zebra* Pilsbry and *L. numidica* (Reeve), in Cameroon (West Africa) include palm fruits and leguminous cover crops; in Martinique (West Indies), crops attacked by *L. aurora* include yam, bean, pepper, Jerusalem artichoke, cucumber, okra, and sweet potato.

**PARASITOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH SIGNIFICANCE**

*Limicolaria aurora* is potentially an intermediate vector of the Rat lungworm *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, causing eosinophilic meningoencephalitis in humans.

**SELECTED REFERENCES:**

**Crowley, T.E. & T. Pain** 1970 A Monographic Revision of the African Land Snails of the Genus *Limicolaria* Schumacher (Mollusca - Achatinidae). *Koninklijk Museum voor Midden-Afrika, Tervuren, België, Annalen, Reeks in-8°, Zoologische Wetenschappen / Musée Royal de l’Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgique, Annales, Serie In-8°, Sciences Zoologiques*, (177): 1-61, 4 pl.

**Mead, A.R. & L. Palcy** 1992 Two Giant African Land Snail Species Spread to Martinique, French West Indies. *The Veliger*, 35(1): 74-77.