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Pseudosuccinea columella snails as food items of the  
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Green Sandpipers Tringa ochropus  
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According to MIENIS (1987) the introduced freshwater snail Pseudosuccinea columella (Say, 1817) (Fam. Lymnaeidae) is predated upon by Moorhens: Gallinula chloropus (Recorded in a ditch near Rehovot, Israel).

A follow up study at the same site in the spring of 1988 resulted in the recording of a second predator of Pseudosuccinea: the Green Sandpiper Tringa ochropus.

During that spring these snails were again present in large numbers in a small pool some 300 m NE of the railway station of Rehovot. The pool received its water in part from the above mentioned ditch and in part a nearby citrus packing plant. The water is therefore usually of a rather poor quality and contains hardly any animal life.

That spring, however, the activities of the packing plant were greatly reduced and consequently the amount of contaminated water reaching the pool was drastically reduced. This enabled Pseudosuccinea columella not only to survive, but even to reproduce in the pool.

During several visits of the site small numbers of Green Sandpipers were seen wading and feeding in the water. Faecal pellets containing small pieces of shell material were present on the banks of the pool. Since only Green Sandpipers were observed feeding in the pool, the faecal pellets have to be from those waders.

The tiny pieces of shell material were easily recognizable as parts of Pseudosuccinea by the presence of the typical delicate "lattice"-sculpture.

Tringa ochropus was already known to feed on three other freshwater snails in Israel: Planorbis spec. (COCKBURN, 1946; this identification might have been based on shells of a much more commonly distributed Gyraulus species, HKM), Physella acuta (Draparnaud, 1805) and Bulinus truncatus (Audouin, 1826) (MIENIS, 1986).

The question still remains whether molluscs from a significant part in the diet of wintering Green Sandpipers

in Israel. A recent study of the diet of wintering birds in Wales, Morocco and Ethiopia by ORMEROD & TYLER (1988) showed that molluscs were encountered only in negligible numbers in faeces and regurgitated pellets of birds feeding in channels in Wales and Ethiopia only, while shell remains were not at all recovered from Green Sandpipers feeding in pools in those three countries!

### Zusammenfassung

Im Frühjahr 1988 wurden in Israel mehrfach Waldwasserläufer beobachtet, die sich unter anderem auch von der eingeführten Süßwasserschnecke Pseudosuccinea columella ernährten. Auch andere Schneckenarten sind im Nahrungsspektrum dieser Limikole in Israel nachgewiesen worden.

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