

Amazing Snail Diversity of Vietnam

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Introduction. Vietnam is a diverse, tropical country with great diversity of land snails. Schileyko (2011) listed 477 species and forms of pulmonate land snails without reference to the numerous operculates or systelommatophorans. Identification of most species is difficult in the absence of keys, so a photographic inventory was begun in 2001 of species encountered incidental to other work.

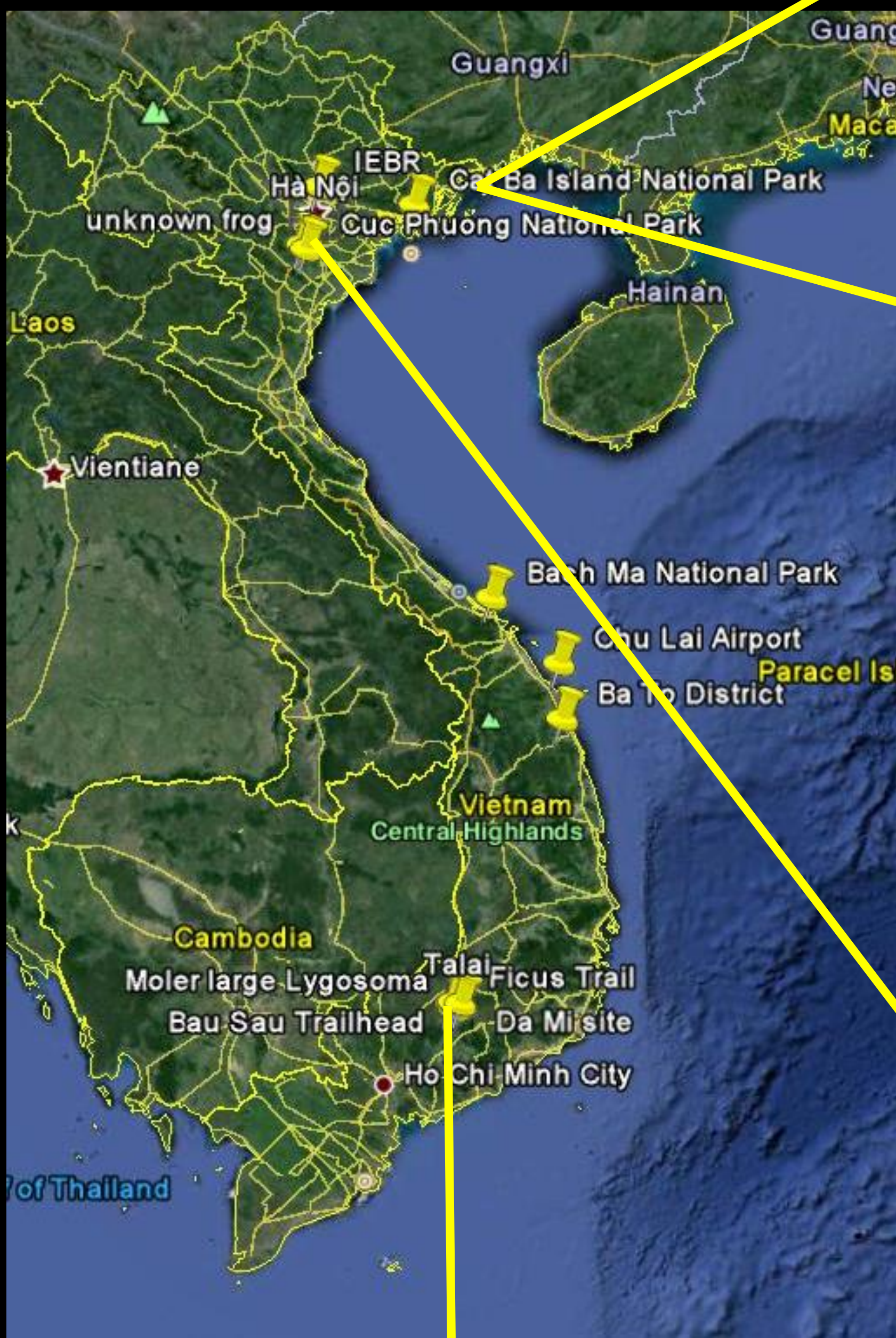
Methods. Living snails were photographed in the field or laboratory. Shells were cleaned and photographed, usually through a microscope. Many recent finds were processed by image stacking using CombineZP. Images were edited in Photoshop to remove backgrounds and surface dirt and combined into composite images for each snail. Very small snails were imaged using SEM at Appalachian State University. Most species were scaled to appear about 5 cm in width or height despite huge differences in actual size. Few species are firmly identified, so names are not included.

Results. Partial results representing approximately 99 species are presented for four areas.

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Vietnam and areas covered in this work.



Cat Ba Island, Halong Bay
Twenty-seven species (9 larger snails and 18 smaller) of at least 40 seen on three short walks. Scale is indicated in shell images



Song Sot Cave area, Halong Bay. Twelve species of about 20 seen on two thirty minute walks. Scale is indicated for each shell.



Cuc Phuong National Park. Forty-two of more than 100 species seen in four visits. Scale is indicated in shell images



Cat Tien National Park - 18 larger snails from many visits. *Bertia siamensis* at lower left is nearly life size.

