
The snail, *Evalea tenuisculpta* (Carpenter, 1864) feeding on the Fat gaper clam, *Tresus capax* (Gould, 1850) in Vancouver Harbour, British Columbia, Canada. See **An Exciting New Discovery** on **page 3**.

**An Exciting New Discovery: the Lightly-sculptured Odostome snail, *Evalea tenuisculpta* (Carpenter, 1864) feeding on the siphon tips of the Fat Gaper, *Tresus capax* (Gould, 1850) in Vancouver Harbour, British Columbia.**

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An exciting new relationship has been observed between the snail, *Evalea tenuisculpta* (Carpenter, 1864) and the Fat gaper clam, *Tresus capax* (Gould, 1850) in Vancouver Harbour, British Columbia, Canada. More than 20 snails were observed on a single *T. capax* siphon. The snail-gaper clam host relationship was observed and recorded by divers using digital underwater photography on five dives at two sites in Indian Arm and one site in the Port Moody Arm of Vancouver Harbour, over the period February, 2007 to January, 2012.

These tiny snails, to 5mm shell height, do not have a radula. They extract body fluids from their hosts using a long proboscis and piercing stylet. [**Inset**]

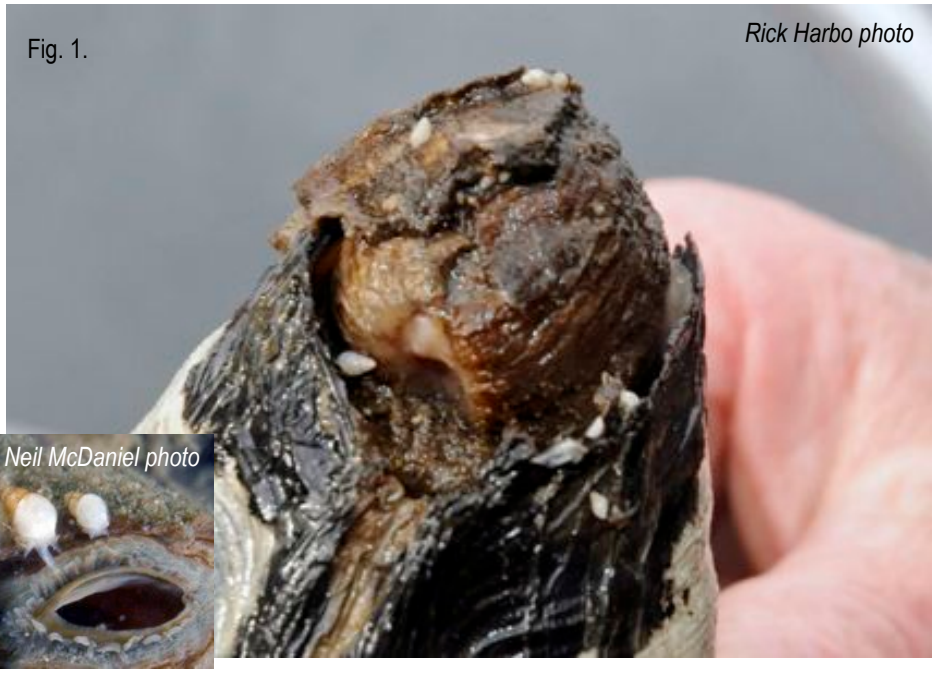


**Fig. 1.** Siphon of Fat Gaper, *T. capax* with snails, *Evalea tenuisculpta*.

There may be several species of the parasitic snail, *Odostomia*, involved, feeding on various hosts. Linda Schroeder and Bert Bartleson have found *Evalea tenuisculpta* on chitons in Washington. Graham and Susanne Jeffrey, and George Holm have found *Odostomia* on chitons in Vancouver and in Port Hardy on Vancouver Island. Scott Walker and Aaron Baldwin have found *Odostomia* on other clams, *Hiatella arctica* and *Entodesma navicula* in Alaska. Divers, Grant Dovey and Mike Atkins recently observed the snails on gaper clams in Clayoquot Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Bill Merilees has collected *Odostomia* on rock scallops, *Crassadoma* and in the mussel matrix of Blue mussels, *Mytilus* sp.



**Fig. 2.** Fat Gapers, *Tresus capax*, from Port Moody Arm of Vancouver Harbour, January 30, 2012.
**Fig. 3.** Live *Evalea tenuisculpta* on the siphon tip of *Tresus capax*.


**Fig. 4.** Shells of *Evalea tenuisculpta*, 3 to 5 mm shell height, showing the characteristic plicated (folded) columella.

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We welcome photographs and observations from other localities. ***Please e-mail rharbo@shaw.ca***.