



## METADATA

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## Abstract

The book covers the scientific subject of Gastropod Biology and the applied subject of Gastropod Farming (Snail Farming). The introduction refers to the economic importance and structure of terrestrial gastropod farming worldwide, in the European Union and in Greece, as well as data on the nutritional value of snail meat and the potential for developing new products (eggs, caviar). The first three chapters describe the taxonomic position of terrestrial gastropods, their external morphology, and the structure and functions of their body (shell, mantle, visceral cavity). This is followed by a detailed description of the structure and physiology of the reproductive and digestive systems. Knowledge of the biology of reproduction and nutrition of snails is linked to the requirements of their farming. The next two chapters present the main species of edible and

marketable snails worldwide and in Greece (*Helix aspersa*, *Helix pomatia*, *Helix lucorum*, and *Eobania vermiculata*) and discuss their biology, physiology, and ecology. It focuses on data from Greek populations that can be used in snail farming in Greece. Finally, four chapters cover the subject of terrestrial gastropod farming. Definitions of important concepts are provided and the different types of farming systems (open-extensive, closed-intensive, and semi-intensive) are presented in detail. The general principles of snail farm construction, the required equipment, and the stages of the production process are described. The methodology for harvesting and storing snails is developed, along with issues related to the safety and protection of snail farms. Finally, an attempt is made to describe the current situation of the snail farming sector in Greece.

