

Newly discovered snail species named after teen activist Greta Thunberg

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Image 1. *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*, the newly discovered species of snail named after teen climate change activist Greta Thunberg. Image: Pierre Escoubas | RivieraMacro/Taxon Expeditions. Licensed under CC-BY 4.0

A snail is a small animal. It looks like a slug. It has a shell on its back. Scientists found a new kind of snail. They named the snail after Greta Thunberg. She is a teenager who is a climate change activist. She wants people to keep the planet healthy. Greta is from Sweden. It is a country in northern Europe.

The snail was found in the small country of Brunei. Brunei is in Southeast Asia. It is in the sea above Australia. The scientific name for the snail is *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*.

A scientific name is made up of two parts, the genus and species of the animal. Genus and species are groups. Animals belong to them. The genus has many kinds of animals. Species is a smaller group of animals. Animals of the same species have characteristics that are the same.

The genus caenogastropods has many kinds of land snails. Menno Schilthuizen studies snails. He said they cannot live if there is no rain. They do not do well when it gets hot. Climate change is making the planet hot. This could make the snails extinct. They would be gone from the planet.

Greta Is Happy About The New Name

The world is getting hotter. This rise in temperature is called global warming. It is also known as climate change.

Scientists say global warming is caused by greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases come from burning fuels. This can be fuels such as coal. It can also be from oil. The gases stay in the air. They trap heat as a greenhouse does. This causes the temperature to rise.

The new snail is very small. It is smaller than one piece of rice. It was found at night. It was eating green leaves. It was at the bottom of a hill next to a river.

J.P. Lim found the snail. He said he named it after Greta Thunberg so we remember climate change. He said that kids have hard work to do. They have to fix problems that they did not make. He promised that people of all ages will help.

The scientists asked Greta if they could use her name. She said yes. She was very happy to have the snail named after her.



Quiz

- 1 Where did scientists find *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*?
- (A) Australia
 - (B) Brunei
 - (C) Europe
 - (D) Sweden
- 2 What is a reason why J.P. Lim named the snail after Greta Thunberg?
- (A) because she asked him to name it after her
 - (B) because she lives in the country in which the snail was found
 - (C) because she helped him to find the snail
 - (D) because he wants people to think about climate change
- 3 What is the article MAINLY about?
- (A) what climate change is
 - (B) who Greta Thunberg is
 - (C) how a new snail species was found
 - (D) why scientific names are important
- 4 Read the following paragraph from the introduction [paragraphs 1-4].

The genus caenogastropods has many kinds of land snails. Menno Schilthuizen studies snails. He said they cannot live if there is no rain. They do not do well when it gets hot. Climate change is making the planet hot. This could make the snails extinct. They would be gone from the planet.

What is the focus of this paragraph?

- (A) why caenogastropods are special
- (B) what caenogastropods look like
- (C) ways to help save caenogastropods
- (D) problems caenogastropods face