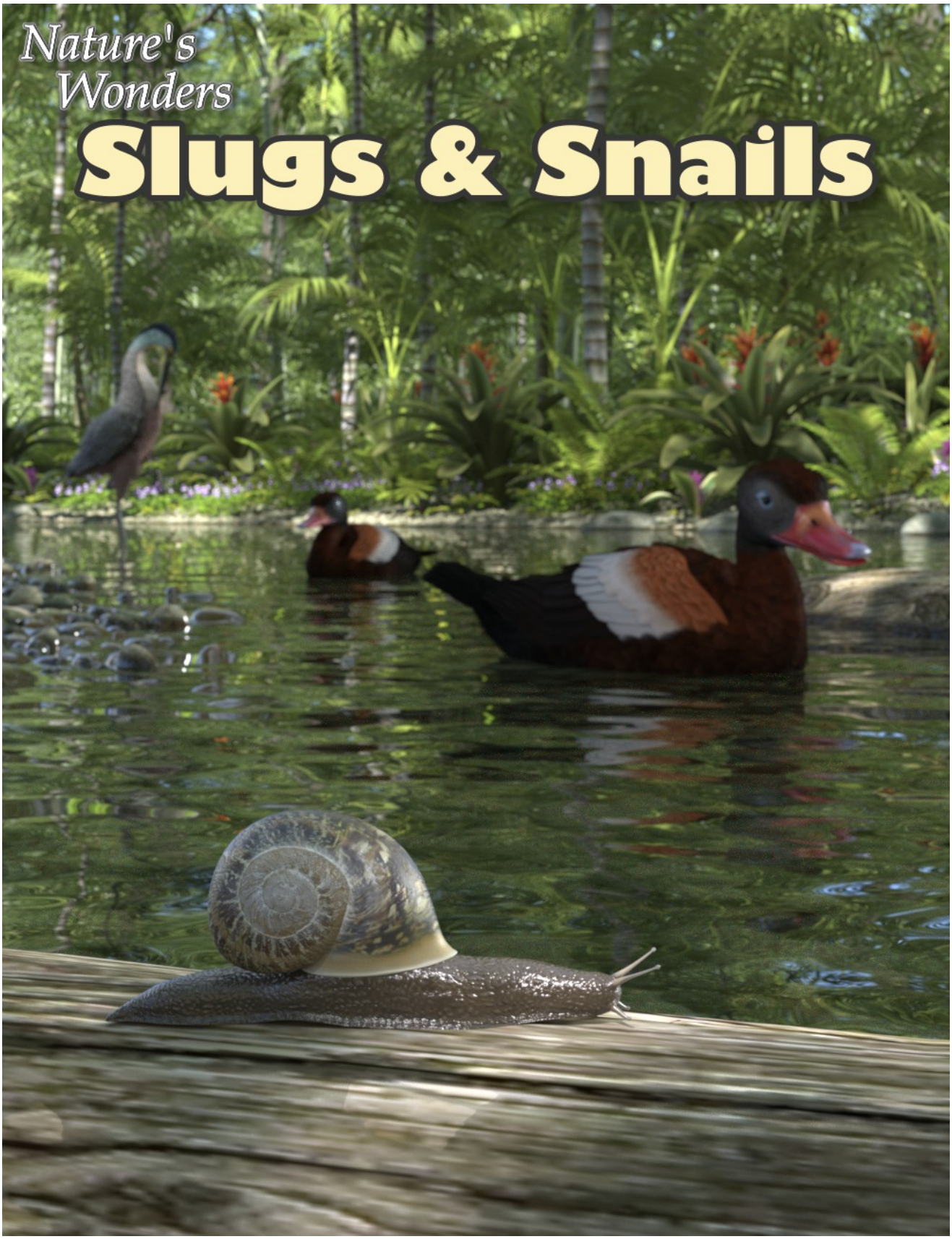

3D model set by Ken Gilliland

Nature's Wonders

Slugs & Snails

Manual

Field Guide

Introduction

Slugs and snails are in genra *Mollusca*. They are both soft-bodied mollusks (or gastropods) that move on a muscular foot, secrete slime, and have eyestalks. The key difference between the two is that snails have a hard, external, coiled shell for protection, while slugs lack a prominent shell, instead having a hidden internal one or none at all, making them more vulnerable to drying out and predators. Both are common garden pests that eat plants, often feeding at night, and are found globally in damp environments, though snails can retreat into their shells for protection, while slugs often burrow or hide in cool, moist spots.

This base set includes two species of each; a Pacific Banana Slug and Common Garden Slug and a Pacific Sideband (snail) and a Common Garden Snail. Also included are a number of poses for both and a prop based “Slime” trail for both.

It comes in both Poser and DAZ Studio native versions and supports Firefly, Superfly and Iray render engines. 3Delight is no longer supported by newer versions of DAZ Studio.

Overview and Use

This set uses common models to digitally recreate the slug and snail species included in this volume. Each species uses specific morphs from the generic model to single out its unique features.

- **Models included in this volume:**
    - Nature’s Wonders Slug (character)
    - Nature’s Wonders Snail (character)
    - Nature’s Wonders Slime Trail (prop)

The set is located within the **Animals : Nature’s Wonder** folder. Here is where you will find a number of folders, such as **Manuals, Resources** and **Fauna Libraries**. Let's look at what is contained in these folders:

- **Fauna Libraries:** This folder holds the actual species and poses for the "premade" fauna. The fauna for this set can be found in the following folder(s):
    - **Mollusca / Snails of the World** and **Slugs of the World**
- **Manuals:** Contains a link to the online manual for the set.
- **Props:** Contains any props that might be included in the set.
- **Resources:** Items in this folder are for creating and customizing your fauna included in the set.

Creating a Specific Slug or Snail using Poser

1. For this example, we'll create the Pacific Banana Slug.
2. Load Poser, select the FIGURES library and go to the "Animals", "Nature's Wonders" and then the Nature's Wonders Fauna Libraries Mollusca folder.
3. Go to the Slugs of the World folder and select the Firefly or Superfly sub-folder.
4. Select the Pacific Banana Slug (or a slug/snail of your choice) and load it by clicking the mouse.

Creating a Specific Slug or Snail using DAZ Studio

1. For this example, we'll create the Pacific Banana Slug.
2. Load DAZ Studio and go to the "Animals", "Nature's Wonders" and then the Nature's Wonders Fauna Libraries Mollusca folder.
3. Go to the Slugs of the World folder and select the Iray sub-folder.
4. Select the Pacific Banana Slug (or a slug/snail of your choice) and load it by clicking the mouse.

Using the Poses

The poses were designed for the default model. The base or "hip" section of the model is the **FOOT**. Since different individual species may use body scaling, it may alter the expected ground level of the species model. Some adjustments may be necessary (e.g. the "ytran" dial may need to be used to raise or lower the model).

The included animation pose is stationary. Set the ztran value of the last frame to a value above/below "0" depending on the speed you want the snail/slug to be moving at.

Using the Slime Trail

The slime trail is a prop that simulates the trail left by slugs and snails. It has a number of morphs that will allow you to piece together a non-linear path. The prop loads as a wireframe for easier posing.

For animation, I suggest placing the pathways slightly under the ground level and raising them as the snail/slug passes over them. Placing the tail prop directly under the slug/snail also works.

Slugs & Snails

FIELD GUIDE

Slugs

Common Garden Slug
Pacific Banana Slug

Snails

Common Garden Slug
Pacific Sideband

Common Garden Slug *Arion hortensis*

This species is native to European countries and islands, including Great Britain, Ireland, and other areas. It has also been introduced to various other countries throughout the world and even includes Tasmania. It also also called the "small striped slug" or "black field slug".

It is a 30-40 m. long roundback slug. In color, it is gray to bluish black to brown black, with dark lateral bands (the right band usually running entirely above the pneumostome). The tentacles are bluish, reddish or yellowish, and the slug bluish or orange tip at the tail. The first row of tubercles above the foot-fringe are whitish. The contracted body is semicircular (not bell-shaped) in transverse section. The sole is orange or yellow. The body mucus is yellow-orange. Juveniles are bluish gray with a darker dorsum and a yellow sole.

This slug lives in gardens, fields, pastures and similar habitat. It consumes agriculturally important crops. In England, it mates in the fall and winter and reproduces by cross fertilization. They can live up to one year.

Pacific Banana Slug *Ariolimax columbianus*

The Pacific banana slug is a species of slug found on the Pacific coast of North America. It is found from Alaska, United States and British Columbia, Canada in the north down through Idaho, Washington, and Oregon south to Northern California. They are found in moist and damp areas of the forest floor.

It is the second-largest species of terrestrial slug in the world, growing up to 25 centimeters (9.8 in) long. It is often bright yellow, but it can also be greenish, brown, tan, or white. It commonly has black spots covering the tail, sometimes so extensively that the tail may appear completely black. Individual slugs can also change color from changes in their environment and eating habits, and can also indicate if a slug is healthy or injured.

It can reach speeds up to 30 feet an hour. They will eat pretty much anything they find and turn it into nutrients for the surrounding plants. Their favorite foods include droppings, fungi and the first new leaves on spring wildflowers. They play an important function in seed dispersion. While they aren't highly toxic as their colors would have you believe, that slime coating numbs the tongues of any predator bold enough to try and eat one. They are usually spit out unharmed.

Common Garden Snail *Cornu aspersum*

It is is native to the Mediterranean region and its present range stretches from northwest Africa and Iberia, eastwards to Asia Minor and Egypt, and northwards to Britain.

The adult bears a hard, thin calcareous shell 25–40 mm (1–1.6 inches) in diameter and 25–35 mm (1–1.35 inches) high, with four or five whorls. The shell is variable in coloring and shade of color, but generally it has a reticulated pattern of dark brown, brownish-golden, or chestnut with yellow stripes, flecks, or streaks (characteristically interrupted brown color bands). The aperture is large and characteristically oblique, its margin in adults is whitish and reflected.

The body is soft and slimy, brownish-gray, and able to be retracted entirely into the shell, which the animal does when inactive or threatened. When injured or badly irritated the snail produces a defensive froth of mucus that might repel some enemies or overwhelm aggressive small ants and the like. It has no operculum (protection plating); during dry or cold weather it seals the aperture of the shell with a thin membrane of dried mucus; the term for such a membrane is epiphragm. The epiphragm helps the snail retain moisture and protects it from small predators such as some ants.

The species is known as an agricultural and garden pest, an edible delicacy, and occasionally a household pet. In French cuisine, it is known as petit gris, and is served for instance in Escargot a la Bordelaise. Also in Lleida, a city of Catalonia (Spain), there is a gastronomic festival called L'Aplec del Caragol dedicated to this type of snail, known as bover, and attracts over 200,000 guests every year. From Crete are known a dish called "chochloi

mpoumpouristoi" (snails turned upside down), the snails cooked alive in a hot pan, on a thick layer of sea salt. Other dishes with snails are snails with rosemary, etc. The practice of rearing snails for food is known as heliciculture. For purposes of cultivation, the snails are kept in a dark place in a wired cage with dry straw or dry wood. Coppiced (cut-back to promote growth) wine-grape vines are often used for this purpose. During the rainy period the snails come out of hibernation and release most of their mucus onto the dry wood/straw. The snails are then prepared for cooking. Their texture when cooked is slightly chewy.

Pacific Sideband *Monademia fidelis*

It is endemic to the Pacific Coast of North America, and is found in California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. It is commonly found in low elevation wet coastal forests but is found in non-forested and urban areas as well. It prefers deciduous and mixed forests, but can occasionally be found in coniferous forests.

These snails display a great deal of morphological variation: the shell of the Pacific Sideband typically has a chestnut brown base, with bands of yellow, dark brown, and red. The body of the animal is rosy or purplish brown, with gray or black throughout. This species of snail reproduces using love darts. At 22 to 36 mm wide, it is the largest land snail species in the state of Washington.

Special Thanks to…

….my betatesters Alisa and FlintHawk

Species Accuracy and Reference Materials

The author-artist has tried to make these species as accurate to their real life counterparts as possible. Slugs and snails of the same species vary considerably, as do all other animals in nature. These slugs and snails were created using the correct field markings and the most common similarities.

With the use of one generic model to create dozens of unique slugs and snail species, some give and take is bound to occur. In addition, 3D-models have many technical challenges, which make exact representations difficult, if not impossible. It's best to think of these slugs and snails represented as resembling the particular species, and they may not, in some cases, be 100% scientifically accurate.

The model and morphs were created using Luxology's Modo. The texture maps were created in Corel's Painter. The model was rigged and materials were created in Smith-Micro's Poser and DAZ's DAZ Studio.

Internet Sources:

- **Wikipedia** (http://www.wikipedia.com)
- **Nature Spot** (https://www.naturespot.org/gallery/slugs-and-snails)
- **Friends of Edgewood** (https://friendsofedgewood.org/banana-slug)
- **Slugs and Smails in Oregon** (https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/IPPM/ODAGuideMolluscs2016ForWeb.pdf)