

## Tropical leatherleaf slug (475)

### Summary

- Restricted distribution. In Australia, American Samoa, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Vanuatu.
- Serious pest of vegetable seedlings and forestry species.
- Dark leathery body with pimples (70-80mm long) when moving, otherwise round, with characteristic yellow line along back, and narrow (4-5mm wide) foot. Mantle covers most of body. Occurs from lowlands to high forest. Adapted to dry areas.
- Spread: small distances gliding on mucus; longer distances associated with local and international horticultural trade.
- Biosecurity: considered potentially serious risk to agriculture (USA). Also, host of rat lungworm.
- Natural enemies: do NOT introduce predatory snails or flatworms.
- Cultural control: bands of sand or eggshells around small plots; collect by hand; use beer traps.
- Chemical control: metaldehyde pellets (check local regulations - potentially harmful to native birds and animals). Alternately, iron phosphate or sodium ferric EDTA. Indian runner ducks – they love slugs and snails!

### Common Name

Tropical leatherleaf. It is also known as the lined leatherback slug, brown slug (in India), or black slug.

### Scientific Name

*Laevicaulis alte*; previously known as *Vaginula alte*, and *Veginullus alte*.

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Information from Brodie G, Barker GM (2012) *Laevicaulis alte* (Férussac, 1822). Family Veronicellidae. USP Introduced Land Snails of the Fiji Islands. Fact Sheet Series, No. 3; and Tropical leatherleaf. Wikipedia. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical\\_leatherleaf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tropical_leatherleaf)); and from *Laevicaulis* spp. Purdue University. (<http://download.ceris.purdue.edu/file/2554>). Photos 1&2 Michal Manas. *Laevicaulis alte* (Férussac, 1822). Wikipedia. (<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laevicaulis-2.jpg>). Photo 3 MAF Plant Health & Environment Laboratory (2011) Tropical Leatherleaf Slug (*Laevicaulis alte*) (PaDIL - <http://www.padil.gov.au>).

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Photo 1. The tropical leatherleaf slug, *Laevicaulis alte*, almost round in its contracted form. Note, the pimple-like surface of the body.



Photo 2. Side view of the leatherleaf slug, *Laevicaulis alte*.



Photo 3. The tropical leatherleaf slug, *Laevicaulis alte*. Note, the characteristic yellowish line on the back that stops near the mantle.

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