

THE LAND SNAILS FROM GREEN CASTLE AND OTHER EXCAVATED
TAINO SITES IN ST. MARY

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ABSTRACT

The Land Snails of Green Castle and Other Excavated Taino Sites in St. Mary

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Green Castle and three other Taino sites (Newry, Coleraine and Wentworth) were excavated by a joint team from UWI and Murray State University (MSU) in 1999 – 2003. Radiocarbon dates suggest that their occupation lasted from about 1,000 AD to the arrival of the Spanish. Among the materials recovered at the sites were marine and terrestrial shells.

This project sets out to identify and quantify the land snails in selected trenches excavated at the four sites. Earlier counts resulted in a three-fold classification of land snails: Pleurodonta, Dentalaria and “other” for the unidentified land shells. The emphasis of this project is on the “other” shells, which had hitherto not been subdivided.

The tabulated information on the land shells is compared with the corresponding results previously obtained for the marine shells. A publication on the outcome of the excavations as a whole is in preparation, and the results of this project will form part of it. For the most part they throw light essentially on the natural environment at the time of occupation.

Keywords: Marcella Tamar Phillips, Land Snails, Taino, St. Mary, Archaeology.