

***Zonitoides nitidus*, one more new species find for me while walking my dog Zoe**

by George P. Holm

I have written before about shells I would not have found if I had not needed to walk my dog Zoe, and I can now add one more species to my list. On March 30 I observed several hundred *Zonitoides nitidus* (Müller, 1774), a forest species not known to frequent a city environment and one that I had not seen before. It had crawled from the grass onto the edge of the cement walk which runs along the railway track at the end of my street.

I was going to be away all day and Zoe had to stay home and watch the house. In the short time I had before it was time to leave, the grass strip along the railway fence was the quickest place for me to take her.

I normally carry a camera with me when I go out and this time was no exception. I managed to snap a couple of photographs of the event and one of those was in focus. I also collected a few specimens that I carried back with me in my hand and those, with the single good photo, enabled me to identify the species.

I can't say if the snails were there the previous day, but when I checked back in the evening I only saw two and then no more during daily visits

to the site for the rest of the week.

It was two weeks later, after a day of heavy rain, that I again saw the snails. Three individuals had crawled onto the edge of the sidewalk in the evening and many more were crawling on the walk the next morning. A small number of *Cochlicopa lubrica* (Müller, 1774) were also present, along with two species of small slugs.

A photo found on the web at www.BioLib.cz shows a female *Z. nitidus* with a small round cluster of cream colored eggs visible under the semi-transparent shell. A similar cluster of eggs can also be seen under the shell of one of the snails in my photo when magnified.

