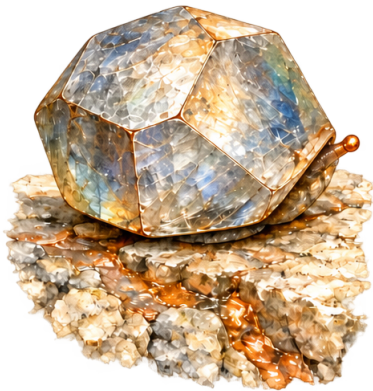


Mica-shell snail

The Rain-Root Stair

THREE FORMS



Closed Mica Shell

The 2 cm snail stays tucked inside its six-faceted mica shell; one copper tip peeps out.



Listening Mica Snail

The body extends and two unequal copper-tipped antennae turn toward a water cup.



Silver-Trail Snail

The extended snail leaves a fine silver trail, remaining the same modest size.

Three authored forms of an imagined species. Illustrations are not to a common scale.

Habitat

Moist stone along the Rain-Root Stair, near the fern cups and the small curbed channel. Its low mineral shell catches the chamber's reflected light.

Identifying features

Small blue-grey snail, translucent mica shell with six irregular facets, soft copper antenna tips, never a human face.

Character & musical voice

Peeks out, listens through its shell, then leaves a faint silver visual trail in the illustration. Dry shell click and short brushed scrape.