The Carychiidae (Pulmonata, Ellobioidea) constitute one of only a few gastropod lineages that independently migrated onto land (Vermeij and Dudley 2000; Klussmann-Kolb et al. 2008). For the region defining the Northeastern United States and Canada, the taxon Carychium O.F. Müller, 1774 comprises at least three native and one introduced species (Figure 1) (Pilsbry 1948; Burch and Van Devender 1980; Hubricht 1985; Nekola and Barthel 2002; Grimm et al. 2009). The latter single species, the Herald Thorn Carychium minimum O.F. Müller, 1774, was originally endemic to Europe. It demonstrates an amphibious ecology, inhabiting permanent moist environments such as riparian zones, meadows and swamps (Watson and Verdcourt 1953; Morton 1955; Egorov 2007). Beyond its natural occurrence in distribution records, C. minimum is a familiar greenhouse species in Europe (Leiss and Reischütz 1996; Horsák et al. 2004) where it can be found amidst the roots of plants or on the bottom of flowerpots. Although questionable (Roth 1982), the first record of its occurrence in North America was described by Clapp (1912) who documented a population from Quincy, Massachusetts in close vicinity to a greenhouse. For the most part, only a few and scattered reports in North America (Roth 1982; Forsyth 2004) exist, which are predominantly based on empty shells in drift material, e.g. at the Grant River, Ontario, Canada (Forsyth et al. 2008).

We collected live C. minimum specimens from two localities in Ithaca, New York during early July 2009, which are e-vouchered and stored at the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main, Germany. These two populations were sampled at Beebe Lake on the Cornell Campus (42°26′58″N, 76°28′33″W) and near the Buttermilk Falls State Park off route 96B (42°24′03″N, 76°30′17″W), Tompkins County. Their presence confirms the assumption made by Grimm et al. (2009) that this introduced species should be found living in the Northeastern United States and Canada not only in the proximity of greenhouses and nurseries but also in its natural habitat. These individuals were found between layers of moist leaf litter and sticks at a seep by the lake while the latter population inhabited the riparian zone of a creek. Both juveniles and adult specimens were found. These finds verify that this species has well-established populations at these two locations. Hence, C. minimum may very well be more widespread and naturalized in Northeastern North America than previously thought.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** We are indebted to Frank Hardie for his tremendous help, patience and perseverance in sorting through piles of leaf litter for these minute snails. Special gratitude goes to Cory Holliday of the...
Weigand and Jochum | Mollusca, Gastropoda, Ellobioidea, Carychium minimum O.F. Müller, 1774

Received: July 2010  
Revised: September 2010  
Accepted: October 2010  
Published online: October 2010  
Editorial responsibility: Inga Ludmila Veitenheimer Mendes

Cave and Karst Incentive Program, Nature Conservancy of Tennessee, Nashville, TN for his speleological prowess and sampling help. For financial support, we wish to thank the Vereinigung von Freunden und Förderern der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main e.V. and the Biodiversity and Climate Research Center (BiK-F), Frankfurt am Main.

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