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**Gastropod:** animal with a soft body and a flat base used for movements. Gastropods are commonly known as snails.

**Snail:** Gastropod with adequate shell to retract into entirely.

**Slug:** A snail with an internal shell.

**Semi-slug:** A snail that is intermediate between a slug and a snail. **Genera:** A group of organisms ranking above a species and below a family.

**Species:** Group of similar animals or plants capable of interbreeding.



Slugs and semi-slugs play an important role in the ecosystem including leaf-litter recycling. They are also a prey for vertebrate and invertebrates including carnivorous snails. Their dietary preference for fungi may also be a factor in fungal spore dispersal. The slugs are used by humans for consumption. Their slime is used for healing wounds and treatments of warts.

Slugs and semi-slugs are often encountered climbing vegetation, crawling on the ground and leaving behind the tracts. Most people are interested in conducting studies on vertebrate and invertebrates like butterflies, snails, gorillas and bats. Less attention is given to the slugs and semi-slugs. Therefore, this study aimed to provide preliminary information of the slugs and semi-slugs of Rwanda.

The data for this report were collected in the mountainous forests of Rwanda. The study was done from August 2017 to August 2019. It took place in Muhungwe Mountain, Nyungwe, Gishwati-Mukura, and Volcanoes NPs. The visual searching technic was used to collect individuals. The collected individuals were identified, and grouped into their respective families, genera and species.

Overall 450 individuals were collected, grouped into 2 families, 6 genera and 19 species. Seven (3 slugs and 4 semi-slugs) new species were found in Rwanda. One of the seven new species was confirmed to be an introduced species. However, further studies on this introduced species should be carried out to document its coverage area, impacts on human health and agricultural sector.

There are still a need for molecular analysis of the 4 semi-slugs species and their anatomical aspects (radula and internal shell). Other study of this kind should be done in different vegetation types and altitudinal ranges in and outside of protected areas of Rwanda.

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