INTRODUCTION
The land snails of Louisiana remain an understudied and underappreciated fauna in North America. Few efforts to catalog the native land snail diversity of the state exist, though some attention has been paid to the state’s non-indigenous species, especially given the importance of New Orleans as an international commerce port. Dundee & Watt (1961) provided a preliminary checklist of Louisiana land snails comprising records of 73 nominal taxa from literature sources, including those given in Pilsbry (1939, 1941), while Hubricht (1985) listed 102 species. NatureServe Explorer, an on-line biodiversity database, lists only six species as indigenous. In order to gain a more accurate and complete understanding of Louisiana’s terrestrial mollusk diversity, parish (= county) records from a variety of museum and literature sources were examined to produce a list of the state’s land snails.

METHODS
Occurrence records were taken from the literature (e.g. Harry 1942; Dundee & Watt 1961; Hubricht 1985) and collection records were examined from the following museums: Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia; Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; Florida Museum of Natural History, Gainesville; and Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh. The Academy and Field Museum cover the majority of collections made by Pilsbry and Hubricht respectively. Only records with data down to parish level were used for parish counts. Invasive species (Burch 1962; Robinson 1999) were included, though intercepted alien species (Dundee 1974) not established were not. Taxonomy and nomenclature generally follow Turgeon et al. (1998).

RESULTS
Museum collections and literature sources recorded the presence of 141 species of land snail in Louisiana, comprising 22 families in four orders. Stylommatophora was the most represented order, with 19 families and Polygyridae was the most represented family with 33 species. Mean diversity was approximately 14 species per parish. Zonitoides arboreus (Say, 1816) was the most widespread species, with records in 40 parishes. Forty-nine (35%) of the species were either recorded in a single parish, or presumed to occur in the state with no specific parish record. Seventeen alien species (12%) were recorded, mostly from Orleans Parish.

DISCUSSION
The land snail fauna of Louisiana represents a poorly understood group of taxa. The recorded diversity of land snails in the state is lower than that of nearby states like Texas (195 sp.) and Alabama (194 sp.). This study increased the number of recorded species by 38% from Hubricht’s (1985) study and by 93% from that of Dundee & Watt (1961). The lack of records for four parishes and the overall disparity in records highlights the need for increased surveying statewide. The parishes with the highest recorded diversity are those containing Baton Rouge (contains Baton Rouge), a common trend in museum collections. Consistent, rigorous sampling of the state’s malacofauna would help reverse this trend.

LITERATURE CITED