

## MDEQ Office of Geology Fossil Website

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The Office of Geology has recently updated its [fossil website](#) which is a great source for geologists, students, and those interested in Mississippi's rich geologic past. Fossil mollusks of the Late Eocene Moodys Branch Formation are illustrated on the website in a unique systematic arrangement. The website is also linked to the MolluscaBase website, an authoritative site for molluscan systematics of living and fossil taxa. Mollusks are the largest marine phylum of animals and comprise about 23 percent of all the named marine organisms. As shelled animals, they preserve well in the fossil record. Some 85,000 living (extant) species of mollusks are recognized. Recognized fossil species add another 60,000 to 100,000 species. The MolluscaBase contains 82,706 accepted species and 13,325 accepted fossil-only species.

A total of 239 species and 500 images for the Moodys Branch mollusks, with each image showing multiple views, are available on the website (Figure 1). To view these images requires clicking on one of four listed molluscan classes, [Bivalvia](#), [Cephalopoda](#), [Gastropoda](#), or [Scaphopoda](#). The website is designed to be used on a computer or smartphone by scrolling through the captioned images.

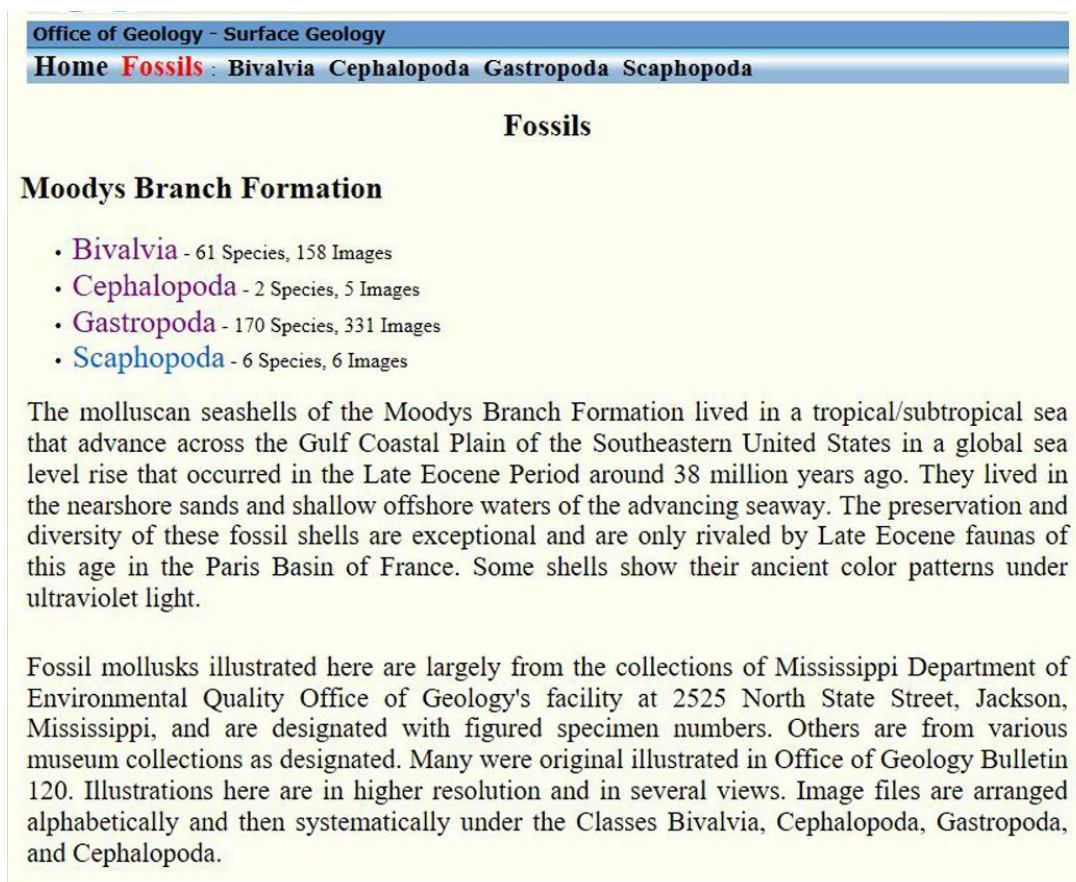


Figure 1. MDEQ Office of Geology Fossil website.

Figure 2 shows the heading of the Class Gastropoda page and the first two species scrolling down. Figure 3 is one of six images of gastropod species 50: [\*Platyoptera extenta\*](#) (Conrad in Wailes, 1854). The image includes six views of the specimen in the round with the middle view photographed under ultraviolet light to reveal the original color pattern. Images are available in small, large, and high resolution sizes, are downloadable, and can be shared on social media.

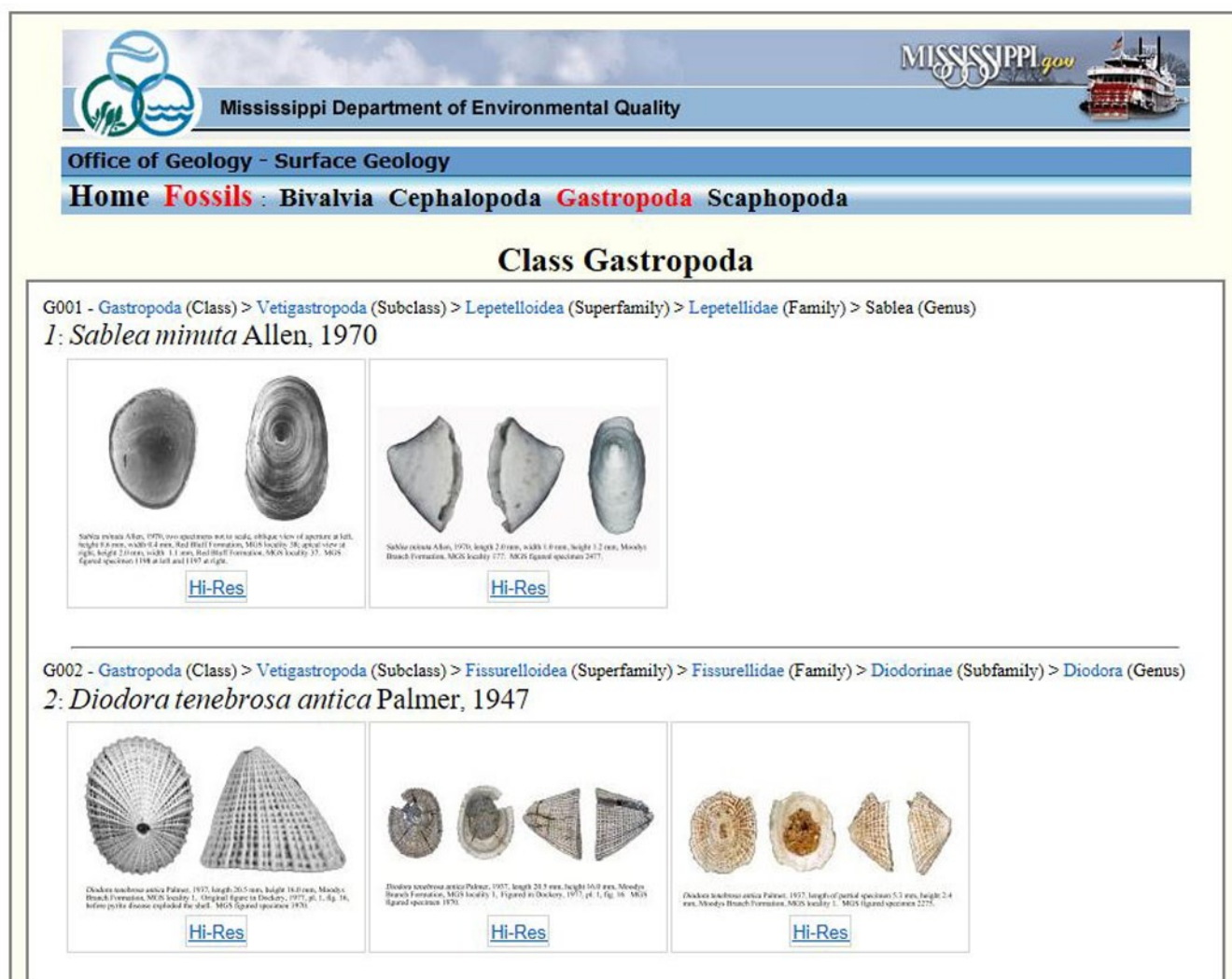
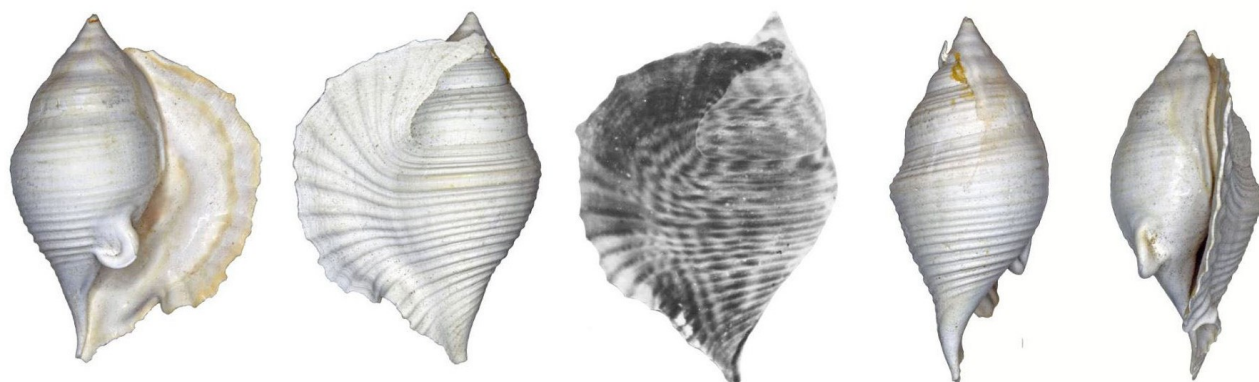


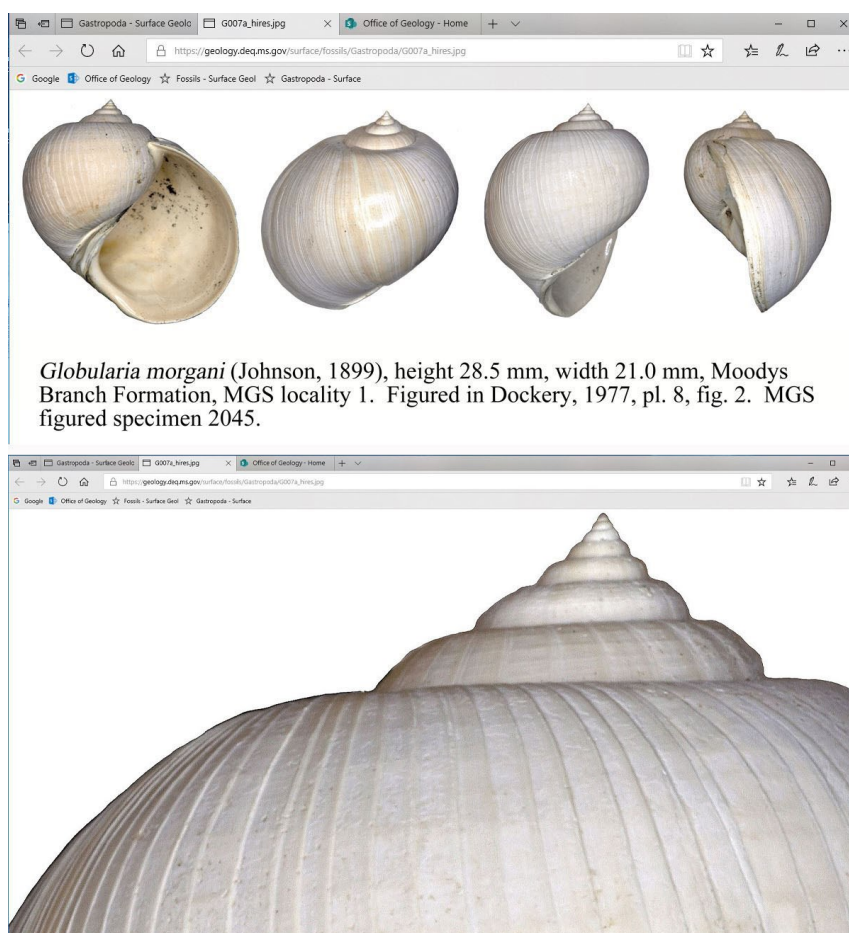
Figure 2. The Gastropod webpage showing the first two species and scrollable to show 170 species and 331 images.



*Platyoptera extenta* (Conrad in Wailes, 1854), height 40.0 mm, width 29.5 mm, Moodys Branch Formation, MGS locality 1. Figured in Dockery, 1977, pl. 4, fig. 13. MGS figured specimen 2020.

Figure 3. One of six images of species 50 *Platyoptera extenta* (Conrad in Wailes, 1854).

Figure 4 is an example of a high resolution enlargement of the spire of gastropod species 7: [\*Globularia morgani\*](#) (Johnson, 1899). Figure 5 is a high resolution download of a more strongly textured species, gastropod species 58: [\*Dis-torsio jacksonensis\*](#) (Meyer, 1885).



*Globularia morgani* (Johnson, 1899), height 28.5 mm, width 21.0 mm, Moodys Branch Formation, MGS locality 1. Figured in Dockery, 1977, pl. 8, fig. 2. MGS figured specimen 2045.

Figure 4. Views of gastropod species 7 *Globularia morgana* (Johnson, 1899) at top, with a high resolution enlargement of the spire of the third image at bottom.





Figure 5. High resolution download in part (2 of 4 views) of gastropod species 40 *Distorsio jacksonensis* (Meyer, 1885).

Check out the new website, and if you have any questions or need more information, contact the [Office of Geology](#). Also, to identify your own finds, go to the MDEQ main website for the "[Ask a Geologist](#)" page.