

Slug Species Identification



Deroceras reticulatum

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Grey field slug

Rub its back and see white slime



Deroceras panormitarum

© IPM Technologies

Brown field slug

Rub its back and see clear slime



Arion spp

© IPM Technologies

Arion

Look for yellow foot underneath



Milax gagates

© LandWISE

Black keeled slug

Keel along back from plate to tail



Slug eggs

© LandWISE

Slug Identification

To distinguish between brown and grey field slugs, stroke the slug's back gently. A grey slug will exude a white mucus. A brown slug will exude a clear mucus.

Arion spp have a yellow foot underneath, readily visible if turned upside down.

Milax have a distinct 'keel' running down the length of their backs, and are normally black in colour.

Surveys in 2004 -2005 have found all four species present in the North Island.

The brown and grey slugs are most abundant species at present. However in Australia, Milax has risen to be the dominant species now, so keep an eye out for this slug.