

Investigation into variation in organisms

Introduction

Snails of two closely related species of *Cepaea* are common in woodland and grassland in Britain. They show a pattern of variation known as polymorphism. This means that there are several different 'types'. The shell may be either yellow or pink/brown, and it may have dark stripes or be plain.

The four types of the snails are as follows:

- Pink/brown, plain
- Yellow, plain
- Pink/brown, striped
- Yellow striped



In this investigation photographs of snails from each area, woodland and grassland will be categorised and counted to determine which variations of snails are most common in each area.

Apparatus

Images of snails (attached)

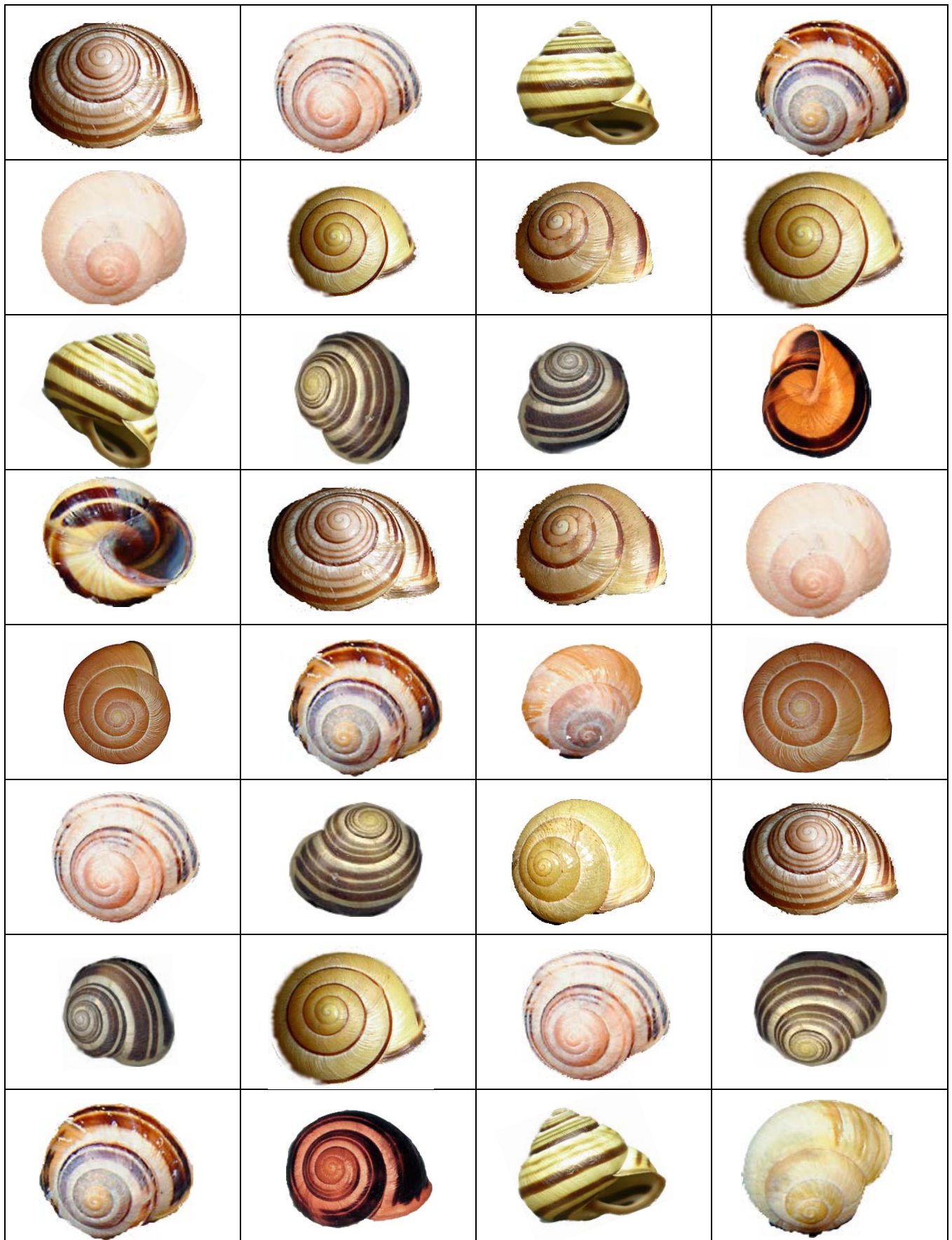
Method

1. Arrange the photographs of the woodland snails face down and randomly select 50.
2. Categorise the snails selected into one of the 4 different variants and count the number of each.
3. Repeat steps 1- 2 for the grassland snails.

Analysis

1. Draw a bar chart of your results.
2. Analyse your results to reach a conclusion on the effect of habitat on the variation of snails.

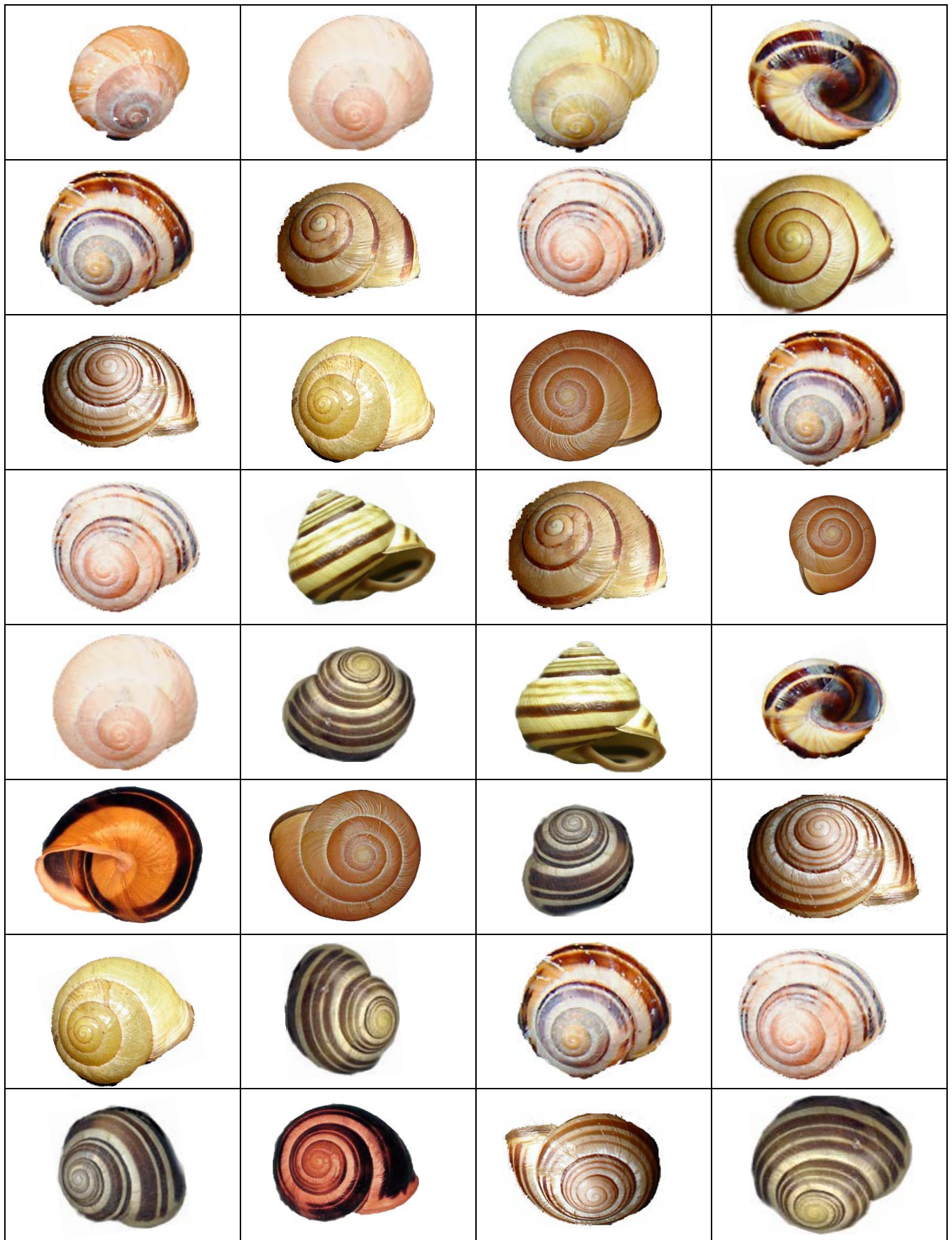
Woodland snails 1



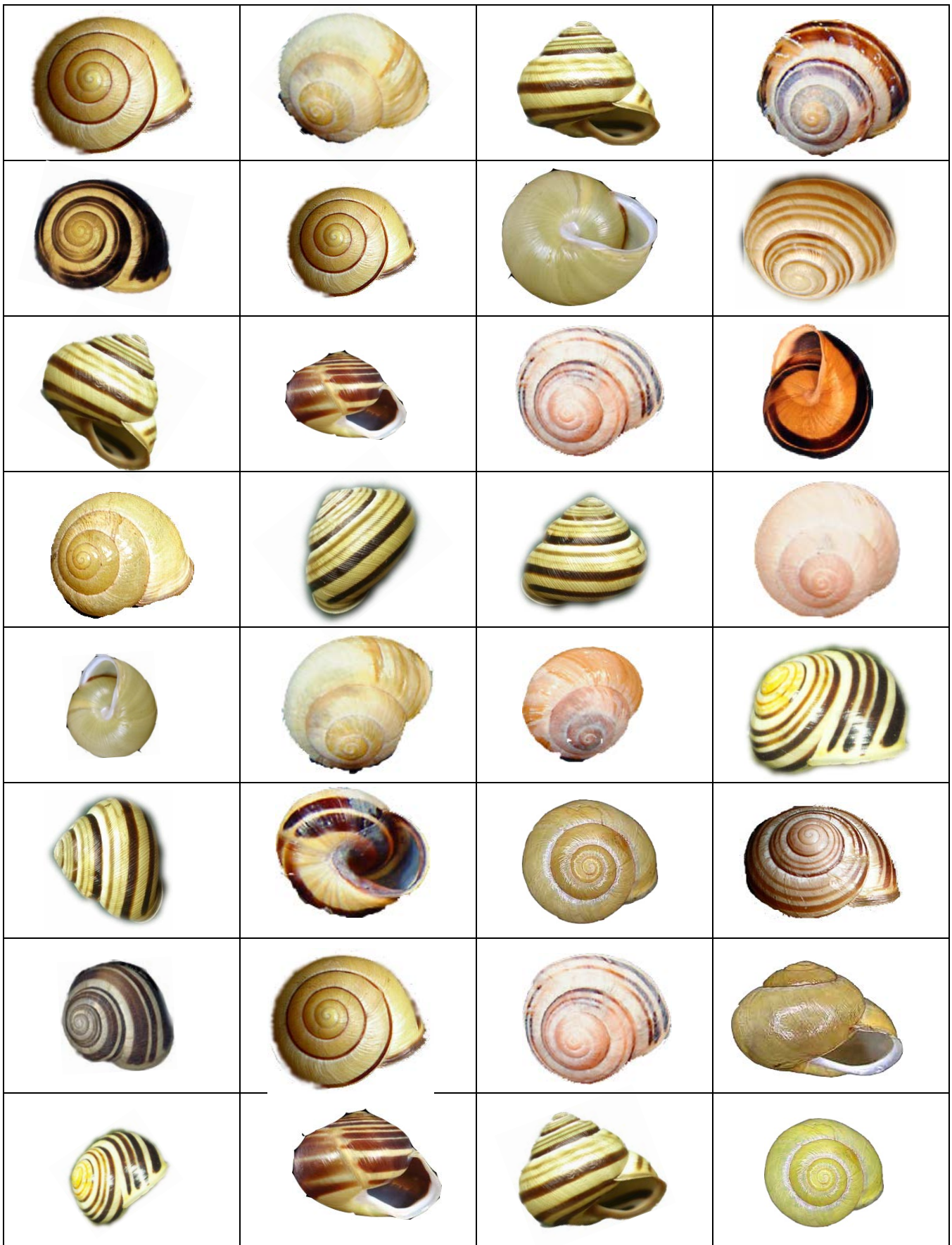
Woodland snails 2



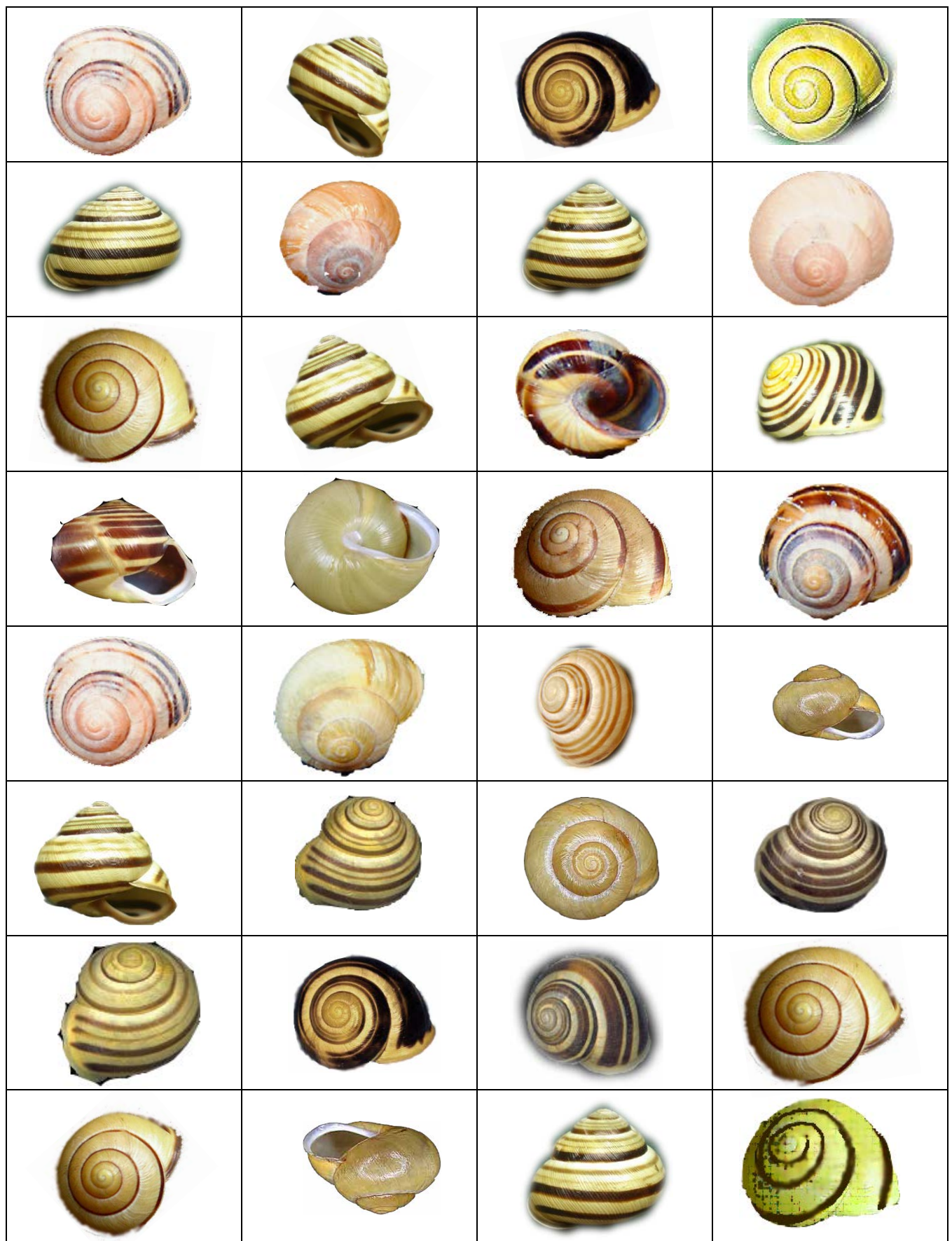
Woodland snails 3



Grassland snails 1



Grassland snails 2



Grassland snails 3

