

*300 Days of Sunshine* transcription of text: Does the sun always shine in Skopelos? It can certainly feel that way. There was so little rain in the summer of 2025 that by September, the figs and olives were shrinking on the proverbial vine. Finally, late in September, rain fell, and the snails came out of hiding. Walking up from town at night, it seemed we crushed so many in the dark. The next morning, we ran into Christos carrying a bucket. He was collecting snails. Snail-hunting, if you will. Christos instructed me on how to prepare the snails. For three days, they must be fed only wild fennel; this will clean their digestive track. Next, soak them overnight in saltwater. Finally, they are ready to be cooked and eaten. This type of snail is *Eobania vermiculata*, commonly known as the chocolate-banded snail. Compared to other Helicad snails, *Eobania vermiculata* has a fairly flattened shell. It is endemic to the Mediterranean. For the record, the only snails I have eaten in Skopelos are the famous cheese pies which are made in the shape of a snail. Skopelos, Greece, 2025