**When is Spring Sprung? A New Interpretation**

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Spring for most people is sprung when the flowers bloom, the leaves emerge and pollen scatters all over the landscape including onto your car (a most notable event noticed by allergy sufferers). But for me, the sprouting of greenery and deposits of pollen are no longer sufficient indicators that spring is here. Since I started studying *Allogona townsendiana* at Crystal Spring Park, Tukwila, Washington (Johannes, 2017) the true indicator that spring has finally arrived for me is when I see the first emergence of this land snail from its long winter slumber. This year spring started with the emergence of *Allogona* on April 3. This spring emergence correlates pretty closely with my observations in 2017 (early April) and 2018 (late March). *Allogona* is also a good indicator for the start and end of other seasons. As in the previous two years, I expect that this land snail will, by early June or so, go back to the ground for a long slumber during the hot summer days, not emerging again until fall rains for a short period before disappearing for the winter.



**Figure 1** - The emergence of stinging nettles (*Urtica*) preceded *Allogona*. This plant, the presence of springs and seeps and Bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) are necessary for an *Allogona townsendiana* colony to be present.

**Figure 2** - One of the *Allogona townsendiana* snails that emerged for the first time this year at Crystal Springs Park, Tukwila, Washington.

**Reference:**

Johannes E.J. 2017. Correlating personal weather station data with observations of the activity of *Allogona townsendiana* at Crystal Springs Park, Tukwila, Washington State, USA. *Tentacle* 25: 25-27.