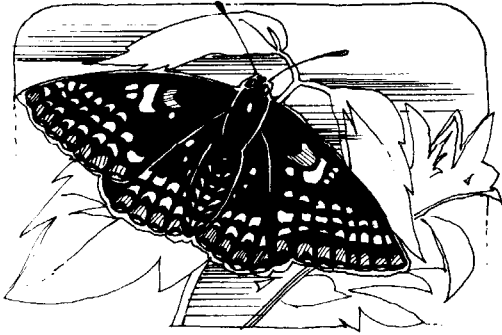
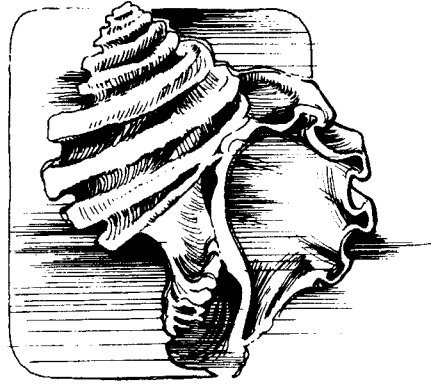


STATE FOSSIL SHELL. In 1994, the shell of the *Ecphora gardnerae gardnerae* (Wilson), an extinct snail, was named the State fossil shell (Chapter 688, Acts of 1994; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-311). The *Ecphora* inhabited Chesapeake Bay and other East Coast tidal waters some 3 million years ago. This russet-colored fossil shell derives its genus name from the Greek *ekphora*, meaning "protruding." The more recent species designation of *gardnerae* is in honor of U.S. Geological Survey paleontologist Julia Gardner. The subspecies name is a repetition of the species name, and the name "Wilson" denotes the person who originated the species name.



STATE INSECT. The Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly (*Euphydryas phaeton*) is the official arthropodic emblem of the State (Chapter 253, Acts of 1973; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-301(a)).

STATE REPTILE. The Diamondback Terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) is the State reptile and official mascot of the University of Maryland College Park (Chapter 476, Acts of 1994; Code State Government Article, sec. 13-313). This attractive turtle is distinguished by diamond-shaped, concentric rings on the scutes of its upper shell (carapace). Chesapeake colonists ate terrapin prepared Native-American fashion, roasted whole in live coals. Abundant and easy to catch, terrapin were so ample that landowners often fed their slaves and indentured servants a staple diet of terrapin meat. Ironically, in the nineteenth century, the citizenry came to appreciate this common turtle as gourmet food, especially in a stew laced with cream and sherry. Subsequently, tremendous retail demand and heavy fishing of the terrapin nearly depleted its supply, and protective laws were enacted. In 1891, some 89,000 lbs. of terrapin were harvested from Maryland waters. With few exceptions, annual harvests since 1956 have remained below 11,000 lbs. Chesapeake diamondbacks are predators whose preference for unpolluted salt water make them indicators of healthy marsh and river systems. In winter, they hibernate underwater in mud. With spring's warmth in May, diamondback terrapin emerge to mate and bask in the sun on marshy banks.

