

What are these?

In order to protect babies from the external environment, many gastropod mollusks lay their eggs in cases. These cases are often laid in strings or clusters and may be attached to shells, rocks, or other egg cases. Once the babies are fully developed they emerge from the cases. The juveniles resemble their parents, containing a fully formed calcium carbonate shell upon emergence.



Egg case of the



Lightning whelk

- The female lightning whelk attaches one end of the casing to a shell or rock down in the sand
- Each capsule can hold 30 to 100 eggs
- Mating season is from late October to early January
- Spawning season is from March through April
- Juveniles will begin hatching in May