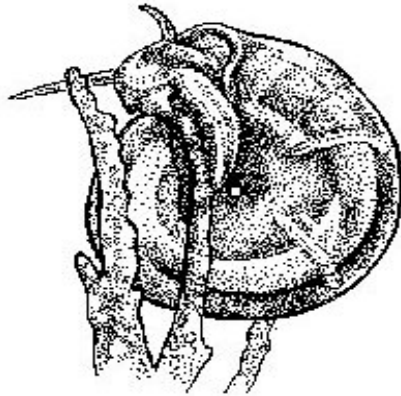


Shining Ram's Horn Snail (*Segmentina nitida*)



1 Definition

The Shining Ram's Horn Snail lives in unpolluted, usually calcareous water, in the ponds and drains of grazing marshes. It favours shallow ditches often choked with a rich, diverse flora. Low intensity management and preservation of traditional grazing marshes may be keys to the survival of the species. It is often associated with a rich variety of freshwater.

2 Current status

2.1 National

In the early 20th Century the Shining Ram's Horn Snail was recorded from 90 sites across a wide area of lowland England. A national survey in 1996 found good populations in Norfolk, Sussex and east Kent.

2.2 Local

Although formerly recorded from a number of sites across Suffolk (Needham Market, Mildenhall and Brandon) it has only been recently recorded from Carlton Marshes and North Cove. At North Cove conditions are more suitable and *S. nitida* is frequent on some choked, shallow ditches.

3 Current factors affecting shining ram's horn snail in Suffolk

The reasons for decline are not clearly understood but the main threats are believed to be: over-frequent ditch clearance, eutrophication due to fertiliser run-off, and conversion of grazing levels to arable farming with associated water table lowering.

4 Current Action

4.1 Legal Status

Segmentina nitida is classified as Endangered in the IUCN Red Data book for invertebrates (Bratton, 1991).

4.2 Management, research and guidance

Carlton Marshes is managed as a reserve by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The marsh at North Cove is privately owned and outside the SWT reserve. Both sites are managed as SSSI. A Management Plan for this site has been completed and is in the process of being implemented.

Where the snail exists total ditch clearance should be avoided. Ditch management on a 7-year rotation, partial ditch clearance by dredging only one side and not clearing adjacent ditches in the same year are recommended.

5 Action Plan Objectives and Targets

- 1 *Determine distribution of this species*
- 2 *Establish survey and monitoring programmes at Carlton Marshes and North Cove.*
- 3 *Enable existing populations to increase in size and spread in range*

6 Shining ram's horn snail: Proposed Action with Lead Agencies

Action	Date	Partners
POLICY AND LEGISLATION		
Seek to include Species habitat requirements in Strategic Plans, Development Plans and Policy documents.	2004 2005 2006 2007	EN, Local Authorities, SWT, RSPB, NT, EA, Defra
SITE SAFEGUARD AND MANAGEMENT		
Consider the development of safeguards in SSSI management plans where the snail has the potential to colonise following survey results especially at Carlton Marshes.	2005	EN, SWT
SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION		
Prepare advice following results of surveys.	2006 2007	BAP Wetland Working Group
RESEARCH AND MONITORING		
Undertake prospective survey work to determine presence of snail in previously unexplored sites with suitable habitat, for example at Kessingland.	2005	BAP Wetland Working Group
Co-ordinate further survey work to determine the status of the species and its habitat requirements at North Cove and Carlton Marshes to assess ditch management techniques.	2005 2006 2007	BAP Wetland Working Group, SWT, EN, EA, SBRC
ADVISORY		
Produce land and water management guidelines for site managers and landowners.	2005 2006 2007	BAP Wetland Working Group, IDB, EN, SWT
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY		
Produce an information sheet for contractors and land managers.	2005 2006 2007	BAP Wetland working Group