

## Cave Physa - *Physella spelunca*

Abundance: Rare

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: G1 Select  
One

Population Status:

Limiting Factor:

Comment:

### Introduction

The cave physa (*Physa speluna* or *Physella spelunca*) is a small aquatic snail with a sinistral, spiral shell. This snail is endemic to a single cave in Wyoming (Turner and Clench 1974) and considered critically imperiled (NatureServe 2009). Turner and Clench (1974) discovered the cave physa in Lower Cane Cave near Lovell, Wyoming. Wethington and Guralnick (2004) confirmed that the cave physa is a unique species from other snails living in hot springs. Little is known about the life history of this unique species.

### Habitat

The cave physa is only known from the hot spring in Lower Cane Cave in Wyoming.

### Problems

### Conservation Actions

### Monitoring/Research

### Recent Developments

### References

NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application] Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: January 14, 2010).

Turner, R and W. Clench. 1974. A new blind *Physa* from Wyoming with notes on its adaptation to the cave environment. *Nautilus* 88:80-85.

Wethington, A. R., and C. Lydeard. 2007. A molecular phylogeny of Physidae (Gastropoda : Basommatophora) based on mitochondrial DNA sequences. *Journal of Molluscan Studies* 73:241-257.

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SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: April 2010. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. A range map is unavailable for the taxa because distribution and ecology are poorly known in Wyoming.