

Tadpole Physa - *Physa gyrina*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: N5 S4

Population Status: Unknown

Limiting Factor: Unknown

Comment:

Introduction

The tadpole physa is an aquatic snail in the family Physidae. These snails have shells that are up to 2 cm in length and brown in color (Harrold and Guralnick 2010). Tadpole physa occur across North America and are ranked from apparently secure (e.g., Wyoming and Washington) to secure (e.g., Georgia, Wisconsin and Alberta; NatureServe 2016). These snails are considered secure across their range. Aquatic snails are scrapers that eat algae, microbes, fungi and detritus on solid surfaces such as logs, macrophytes and rocks (Smith 2001). The biology of the tadpole physa has been thoroughly studied (Dillon et al. 2006). These snails mature at 11 to 12 weeks in a laboratory setting and exhibit a variety of life history strategies (Dillon et al. 2004). Tadpole physa are distributed across much of Wyoming.

Habitat

Tadpole physa live in permanent and intermittent waterbodies including streams, rivers, ponds and lakes (Dillon et al. 2006). They can be found on a variety of substrate types from fine sediment, sand, cobble and aquatic plants.

Problems

Conservation Actions

Monitoring/Research

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department funded the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database to survey aquatic snails in the Snake and Green River drainages of Wyoming.

Recent Developments

Wethington and Lydread (2007) published a revised taxonomy of the family Physidae and found that the species *Physa gyrina* includes *P. johnsoni*, *P. microstriata*, *P. utahensis* and *P. wrighti*.

References

Tadpole *Physa* (*Physa gyrina*)



SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: February 2016. Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Note that brown indicates the current known range of the species.