

Pewter Physa - *Physa acuta*

Abundance: Unknown

Status: NSSU

NatureServe: N5 S4

Population Status: Unknown

Limiting Factor: Unknown

Comment:

Introduction

The pewter physa is an aquatic snail in the family Physidae. These snails have shells that are up to 1.9 cm in length and yellow to brown in color (Harrold and Guralnick 2010). Pewter physa occur across North America and are ranked from imperiled (British Columbia and Colorado) to secure (e.g., Texas, Florida and Ontario; NatureServe 2016). These snails are considered secure across their range. Pewter physa live on many continents raising questions as to whether or not they are native to North America. Dillon et al. (2002) speculated that pewter physa were native to North America and spread to Europe and other countries after the New World was settled after studies individuals from both continents. 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 pewter physa has been thoroughly studied. These hermaphroditic snails lay 50-100 eggs and juveniles mature after 6-8 weeks in a laboratory setting (Wethington and Dillon 1993). Pewter physa are distributed across much of Wyoming.

Habitat

Pewter physa live in many aquatic habitats and they can reach high densities in ponds and lakes (Dillon et al. 2006).

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 acuta* includes *P. acuta*, *P. cubensis*, *P. heterostropha*, *P. integra* and *P. virgate*.

References

Pewter Phyla (*Physo acuta*)



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.