

RE-DISCOVERY OF *OMPHISCOLA GLABRA* (O.F. MÜLLER) (LYMNAEIDAE) IN IRELAND

Hurley (1981) gives a comprehensive review of the history of the lymnaeid mud snail *Omphiscola glabra* (O.F. Müller) in Ireland together with details of the most recent known colony, that occurring in a drain at Shelmaliere Commons, Co Wexford. The Shelmaliere Commons site was subsequently destroyed by agricultural drainage operations in the 1980s. As a result, a recent Red Data listing of Irish non-marine Mollusca (Byrne *et al.*, 2009) classified the species as extinct in Ireland. We report here the discovery of a new site in Co Waterford, at which the species appears well established and is hopefully less vulnerable to interference than at some of its historical sites.

The site is in an area of shallow, spring-fed, poor fen at Carrickavrantry (S546019), Co. Waterford. On 28 July 2009 three adults and four juveniles were swept from floodwater among dense *Juncus effusus* (L.) and *Menyanthes trifoliata* (L.). Other molluscs present were: *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* (J.E. Gray), *Aplexa hypnorum* (L.), *Anisus leucostoma* (Millet), *Galba truncatula* (O.F. Müller), *Oxyloma elegans* (Risso), *Vertigo anti-vertigo* (Draparnaud), *Columella aspera* Waldén, *Deroceras laeve* (O.F. Müller), *Euconulus fulvus* (O.F. Müller), *Arion ater* (L.), *Cepaea nemoralis* (L.). Weather was overcast and cool with moderate southerly winds and persistent rain. *Omphiscola glabra* was mostly encountered in deeper, more permanent, water beyond the *Juncus* zone where some open water with beds of *Menyanthes* began. The site is ungrazed but bounded by a mixture of semi-intensive pasture and conifer plantings on rough ground. Carrickavrantry Reservoir, a public service utility, lies immediately to the north. Conditions at the site appear stable, but time did not permit an assessment of the size of the colony that could potentially occupy the whole area of poor fen, which is about 2 ha.

Carrickavrantry is useful in predicting the kind of habitat the species might favour in Ireland. Low levels of nutrient enrichment are known to be important elsewhere. Good quality, seasonally flooding poor fen and water of mildly acid pH may also be indicative. Such conditions appear to be restricted in the south-eastern counties, where the species was formerly recorded, suggesting that the number of potentially new sites may be very small. It is therefore important that steps are taken to safeguard the species at Carrickavrantry, a task which hopefully will be assisted by its high Red Data status, which should now be amended to critically endangered (CR).

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BYRNE A, MOORKENS EA, ANDERSON R, KILLEEN IJ & REGAN EC 2009 *Ireland Red List No. 2 – Non-Marine Molluscs*. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

HURLEY J 1981 A history of the occurrence of *Lymnaea glabra* (Gastropoda: Pulmonata) in Ireland. *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **20**: 284–287.

Roy Anderson
1 Belvoir View Park
Belfast BT8 7BL
Co. Antrim
N. Ireland

Stephen McCormack
30 Stradbally More
Stradbally
Co. Waterford
Republic of Ireland

Contact author : roy.anderson@ntlworld.com

