

STOCK ISLAND TREE SNAIL

Orthalicus reses reses

Order:	Stylommatophora
Family:	Bulimulidae
FNAIRanks:	G1T1/S1
U.S. Status:	Threatened
FL Status:	Endangered



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Description: A large snail (adults 1.8 - 2.2 in. = 45 - 55 mm) with a high, conical shell of variable thickness, but tending to be thin and yet strong. Color ranges from white to buff with three indistinct, brownish-purple, horizontal bands and numerous vertically oriented flammules or streaks of the same color. These axial stripes are generally narrower than the whitish interspaces and do not fork at the suture. The apex

(tip of shell) and columella (inner shell spiral) are white. Snail body is grayish-tan without markings.

Similar Species: The very similar Florida Keys tree snail (*Orthalicus reses nesodryas*) can be distinguished by its brown apex and columella, as well as its broad axial stripes that often fork near the suture. The banded tree

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snail (*O. floridensis*) has spiral bands only (no vertical streaks). The Florida tree snail (*Liguus fasciatus*) often has axial flammules, but its shell is generally less capacious, with a smaller aperture.

Habitat: Tropical hardwood hammock (rockland hammock); host trees are gumbo limbo (*Bursera simarouba*), strangler fig (*Ficus aurea*), stoppers (*Eugenia* spp.), pigeon plum (*Coccoloba diversifolia*), Jamaican dogwood (*Piscidia piscipula*), poisonwood (*Metopium toxiferum*), and other smooth-barked hardwoods.

Seasonal Occurrence: Dormant during extensive dry periods, particularly December - April.

Florida Distribution: Found only on Stock Island, just east of Key West. The very similar subspecies *O. r. nesodryas* is found throughout the Keys and extreme southern mainland Florida.

Range-wide Distribution: Same as Florida distribution.

Conservation Status: Restricted to a few small hammocks on the municipal golf course and adjacent private property.

Protection and Management: Prevent collecting; enlarge occupied hammocks by planting host trees; retain leaf litter accumulations at tree bases for egg deposition; control predators in the vicinity of occupied habitat. Translocation recommended only after careful consideration of consequences.

Selected References: Deyrup and Franz (eds.) 1994, Pilsbry 1946, USFWS 1982.

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