STOCK ISLAND TREE SNAIL
Orthalicus reses reses

Order: Stylommatophora
Family: Orthalicidae
FNAI Ranks: G2T1/S1?
U.S. Status: Threatened
FL Status: Threatened

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 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: Reintroduce into historical range and other areas in Florida preferably devoid of fire ant predators. Enlarge occupied hammocks by planting host trees, retain leaf litter accumulations at tree bases

for egg deposition, and control predators in the vicinity of occupied habitat.

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

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