

**European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)**


**Second Report by the United Kingdom under
Article 17
on the implementation of the Directive
from January 2001 to December 2006**

**Conservation status assessment for
Species:
S4056 - *Anisus vorticulus* - Little ramshorn
whirlpool snail**

The information in this assessment corresponds to the "species fact sheet" submitted by the UK to the European Union in February 2008 (second and final submission). Please note that this is a section of the UK's report. For the complete report visit <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17>

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Species Name: *Anisus vorticulus*

1. National level	
Species Code	S4056
Member State	United Kingdom
Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state	ATL
1.1 Range map	 A map of the United Kingdom showing the distribution of the species <i>Anisus vorticulus</i> . The map includes the main islands of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as the Channel Islands and the Shetland Islands. The distribution is indicated by shaded areas: a large shaded area covers the southern and eastern coasts of England, a smaller shaded area is located on the south coast of Ireland, and a small shaded square is located in the south of England. The rest of the map is unshaded, indicating no recorded presence of the species in those areas.

1.2 Distribution map



2. Biogeographic level

2.1 Biogeographic region

ATL

2.2 Published sources and/or websites

ABRAHAM, F., ALLEN, S., HODGE, P. and WILLING, M.J. 1998. A survey of the flora and selected invertebrate groups of the ditches of the Lower Arun Valley. Arun Valley Countryside Project, Bognor Regis: Arun District Council, (unpublished report)

CURSON, S., FREED, T., GREENAWAY T., HODGE, P., RYLAND, K. & WILLING, M.J. 2003 Baseline Biological Survey of the Lower Ouse Valley (Tarring Neville, Southease & Offham Marshes). Sussex Record Centre Survey Unit. Woods Mill.

DOLPHIN ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS et al. 2002. Baseline Biological Survey of the Lower Ouse Valley. Report to English Nature, Lewes.

HICKLIN, A.J. 1986. An evaluation of the nature conservation status of the Lewes Brooks drainage system, East Sussex. Wye Nature Conservancy

Council.

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KILLEEN, I.J. 2005. A Survey to determine the present status of *Anisus vorticulus* at sites in Suffolk and Norfolk. Report for Environment Agency.

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NIGGEBRUGGE, K., DURANCE, I., WATSON, A.M., LEUVEN, R.S.E.W. & ORMEROD, S.J. 2006. Dispersal and distribution in uncommon wetland gastropods: snail-trail or critical path? Unpublished.

WATSON, A. 2002. The Ecology of Four Scarce Wetland Molluscs – University of Wales, Cardiff PhD study Environment Agency R&D Project W1-038PR.

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WILLING, M.J. & KILLEEN, I.J. 1999. *Anisus vorticulus* – a rare & threatened water snail. *British Wildlife*, 10:6, pp 412-418.

WILLING, M.J. 1999. Monitoring populations of *Anisus vorticulus* the little whirlpool ramshorn snail in West Sussex, May - November 1998. English Nature Research Reports 310. Peterborough: English Nature.

WILLING, M.J. 2000a. A baseline molluscan survey of the RSPB Pulborough Brooks Reserve. Unpublished report for the Environment Agency, Worthing.

WILLING, M.J. 2000b. A molluscan survey of: 1. ditches adjacent to the middle River Arun & lower River Rother, West Sussex & 2. a monitoring ditch on Amberley Wildbrooks. Unpublished report for the Environment

Agency, Worthing.

WILLING, M.J. 2001. Molluscan monitoring of two ditches on Amberley Wildbrooks, 2000. Unpublished report for the Environment Agency, Worthing.

WILLING, M.J. 2004. Monitoring populations of the little whirlpool ram's-horn snail *Anisus vorticulus* (the little whirlpool ramshorn snail) at Pulborough Brooks and Amberley Wildbrooks June – September 2004. Unpublished report to the RSPB & Environment Agency (Worthing).

WILLING, M.J. 2005. Monitoring populations of *Anisus vorticulus* (the little whirlpool ramshorn snail) at Pulborough Brooks & Amberley Wildbrooks June – September 2004. An unpublished report to the RSPB and Environment Agency (Worthing).

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WILLING. M.J. 2007. The Survey & Monitoring of populations of the Little Whirlepool Ram's-horn Snail on (a) the SWT Pevensey Levels Reserve and (b) Amberley Wildbrooks and Pulborough Brooks: May – June 2006. Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre Survey Unit. Woodsmill, Henfield.

WILLING, M.J. 2007. Monitoring populations of the Little Whirlpool Ram's-horn Snail on Pevensey Levels April 2006. Environment Agency, Worthing.

Map Data Sources

Conchological Society - Mollusc (non-marine) data for Great Britain and Ireland; Natural England - Invertebrate Site Register (via the NBN Gateway).

Data from KILLEEN, I.J. 2005. A survey to determine the present status of *Anisus vorticulus* (Gastropoda: Planorbiidae) at sites in Suffolk and Norfolk. Unpublished report for the Environment Agency.

KILLEEN I.J. 1999. EN Species Recovery Programme: The freshwater snail *Anisus vorticulus*: 1998 monitoring survey of ditches in East Anglia. English Nature Research Reports No.311. Peterborough: English Nature.

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	Natural England (A. Watson, pers. comm) compiled in 2000.		
2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region			
2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km)	967		
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1998-2005		
2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range	Moderate		
2.3.4 Range trend	Stable (=)		
2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable		
2.3.6 Range trend period	1994-2005		
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	Not applicable		
2.4 Population			
2.4.1 Population size estimation	Minimum	7	Maximum
	Units	Other Occupied 10-km squares	
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	2002-2006		
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	3 - From comprehensive inventory		
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Good		
2.4.5 Population trend	Decreasing (-)		
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%)	Unknown		
2.4.7 Population trend period	2002-2005		
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence; 5 - Natural processes;		
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	Not applicable		
2.4.10 Main pressures	802 - reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh; 804 - ; 910 - Silting up; 951 - drying out / accumulation of organic material;		
2.4.11 Threats	141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 800 - Landfill, land reclamation and drying out, general; 802 - reclamation of land from sea, estuary or marsh; 804 - ; 830 - Canalisation; 890 - Other human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; 910 - Silting up; 951 - drying out / accumulation of organic material;		
2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region			
2.5 Habitats for the species	<i>Anisus vorticulus</i> has only been found in the UK within grazing marshes which are drained by ditches, rhymes, dykes etc. It occurs in the unpolluted, calcareous waters of well-vegetated marsh drains and is occasionally found with other uncommon or vulnerable molluscs such as <i>Valvata macrostoma</i> and <i>Pisidium pseudosphaerium</i> and often found floating on the surface amongst duckweed (<i>Lemna</i> spp.). It also shows preference for ditches or channels of >3m in width and >1m in depth with a diverse flora but with a moderate emergent vegetative cover, and often occurs in ditches in wet fields that flood in winter, as this may be important in enabling young snails to colonise new ditches.		
2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km)	Unknown		
2.5.3 Date of estimation	05/2007		

2.5.4 Quality of data	Poor
2.5.5 Trend of the habitat	Decreasing (-)
2.5.6 Trend period	2002-2005
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence;
2.6 Future prospects	
2.6 Future prospects for the species	Poor prospects_Species likely to struggle unless conditions change
2.7 Complementary information	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km)	967
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	9
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Unknown
2.7.4 Other relevant information	
2.8 Conclusions <i>(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)</i>	
(2.3) Range	(FV) - Favourable
(2.4) Population	(U1-) - Inadequate and deteriorating
(2.5) Habitat for the species	(U1-) - Inadequate and deteriorating
(2.6) Future prospects	(U1) - Inadequate
Overall assessment	(U1-) - Inadequate and deteriorating