

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Myosotella myosotis

English name: Mouse-eared snail	Scientific name: <i>Myosotella myosotis</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Gastropoda Order: Eupulmonata Family: Ellobiidae	Species authority: Draparnaud, 1801	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: –	Generation length: 1–2 years	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Construction (J02.04.02, J02.12.01)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Construction (J02.04.02, J02.12.01)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
Global / European IUCN Red List Category: NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: Denmark –/–, Estonia –/–, Finland –/–, Germany –/1 (Critically endangered, incl. North Sea), Latvia –/–, Lithuania –/–, Poland –/–, Russia –/–, Sweden –/–		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Myosotella myosotis is a small salt marsh snail. It is considered a terrestrial species but is directly dependent on the marine environment and was therefore included in the HELCOM Red List assessment.

In the Baltic Sea area, it has so far only been found on the German coast but it probably also occurs elsewhere. On the basis of German data, it is known to be genuinely rare, and not just overlooked. It is likely that the population has declined and that there have been more locations along the coast of the southern Baltic Sea. The potential habitats have been strongly affected by coastal engineering, including prevention of flooding.

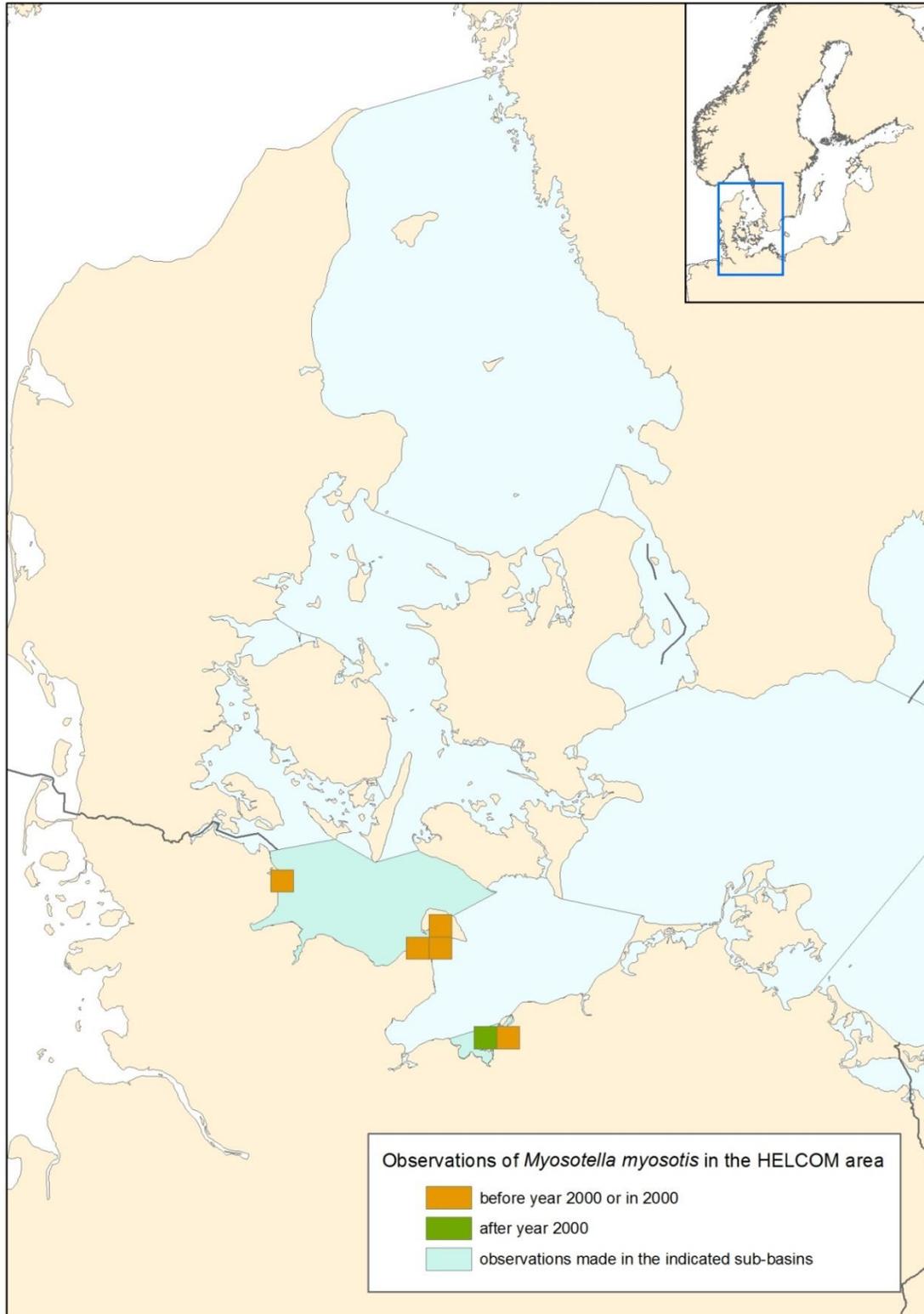


Myosotella myosotis. Photo by Haus der Natur – Cismar©.

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*Myosotella myosotis***Distribution map**

The georeferenced records of species received from the database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research (IOW).



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Habitat and Ecology

M. myosotis is a habitat specialist which lives in a very narrow zone on flooding saltmarshes in the southern Baltic Sea in salinities between 10–15 psu.

Description of major threats

The potential habitats of the species have been strongly affected by coastal engineering, including prevention of flooding.

Assessment justification

The salt marsh snail has been found only from the German coast but it probably occurs also elsewhere in the western Baltic Sea. However, no data is available from the Danish Straits. On the basis of German data it is known to be also genuinely rare, not just overlooked. It has been searched for on the German coast but only one recent location is known. It is likely that the population has declined. The potential habitats have been strongly affected by coastal engineering, including prevention of flooding. The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD) in the HELCOM area.

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Even though the species is very poorly known, it is safe to say that restoration of flooding salt marshes would probably benefit the species in the long run. However, it is important also to improve the level of knowledge on the distribution of the species and targeted inventories would be needed e.g. in Sweden and Denmark. Flooding saltmarshes represent a habitat that is often overlooked in both marine and terrestrial monitoring.

Common names

Denmark: evesnegl, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: Mäuseöhrchen, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: stranddvärgsnäcka

References

Encyclopedia of Life. Available at <http://eol.org/pages/2571983/details>.

IOW database. Observational data from the database of the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research.

Rachor, E., Bönsch, R., Boos, K., Gosselck, F., Grotjahn, M., Günther, C.-P., Gusky, M., Gutow, L., Heiber, W., Jantschik, P., Krieg, H.-J., Krone, R., Nehmer, P., Reichert, K., Reiss, H., Schröder, A., Witt, J. & Zettler, M. L. 2012. Rote Liste und Artenliste der bodenlebenden wirbellosen Meerestiere. Vierte Fassung, Stand Dezember 2007, einzelne Aktualisierungen bis 2012. Naturschutz und Biologische Vielfalt 70(2). Bundesamt für Naturschutz.

Wiese, V. 1991. Atlas der Land- und Süßwassermollusken in Schleswig-Holstein. Available for the species at http://www.mollbase.de/sh/ellobiidae/ovatella_myoso_atl.htm.

World Register of Marine Species WoRMS. Available at

<http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=139673>.