

Vertigo morsei (Six-whorl Vertigo)

Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: *Gastropoda* (Aquatic And Terrestrial Snails)
Order: *Stylommatophora* (Air-breathing Snails Land Snails)
Family: *Pupillidae* (Land Snails)

General comments:

One EO despite some survey effort (Coles 2002, Nekola 2007); obligate of hypercalcareous wetlands (rare in ME with obvious potential habitat already surveyed – e.g., marl fens); declines and restrictions in range elsewhere

Species Conservation Range Maps for Six-whorl Vertigo:

Town Map: [Vertigo morsei Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Vertigo morsei HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: **Endangered**

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: **NA**

Recent Significant Declines: **NA**

Regional Endemic: **NA**

High Regional Conservation Priority: **NA**

High Climate Change Vulnerability:

Vulnerability: 3, Confidence: Medium, Reviewers: Decided in Workshop (W)

Understudied rare taxa:

Recently documented or poorly surveyed rare species for which risk of extirpation is potentially high (e.g. few known occurrences) but insufficient data exist to conclusively assess distribution and status. *criteria only qualifies for Priority 3 level SGCN*

Notes:

Historical: **NA**

Culturally Significant: **NA**

Professional Discretion:

Current criteria ranked *Vertigo morsei* as SGCN priority 2, however, species should qualify as SGCN priority 1 based on professional discretion.

Justification: One EO despite some survey effort; obligate of hypercalcareous wetlands (rare in ME with obvious potential habitat already surveyed – e.g., marl fens); declines and restrictions in range elsewhere

Habitats Assigned to Six-whorl Vertigo:

Formation Name	Peatland
Macrogroup Name	Northern Peatland & Fens
Habitat System Name:	Laurentian-Acadian Alkaline Fen **Primary Habitat** Notes: <i>primary, known in ME from a single marl flat in fen</i>

Stressors Assigned to Six-whorl Vertigo:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability	Moderate Severity		High Severity	
	Highly Actionable		Medium-High	
	Moderately Actionable		Medium	
	Actionable with Difficulty		Low	

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IUCN Level 1 Threat	Other Options
IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge	
Severity: Moderate Severity	Actionability: Highly actionable
Notes: Lack of comprehensive survey and monitoring effort to understand population status & trends and ID additional occurrences	
IUCN Level 1 Threat	Natural Systems Modifications
IUCN Level 2 Threat: Dams and Water Management-Use	
Severity: Moderate Severity	Actionability: Moderately actionable
Notes: Alteration of hydrology at the single site in state for this snail is the single biggest possible threat. The site is protected but activity immediately offsite could compromise the wetland hydrology and quality.	
IUCN Level 1 Threat	Climate Change and Severe Weather
IUCN Level 2 Threat: Habitat Shifting or Alteration	
Severity: Moderate Severity	Actionability: Actionable with difficulty
Notes: Impacts of climate change to habitat could become a concern for a specialist that is primarily found in much cooler regions.	

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Six-whorl Vertigo:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.