



Common Name: INTERRUPTED ROCKSNAIL

Scientific Name: *Leptoxis foremani* Lea

Other Commonly Used Names: none

Previously Used Scientific Names: none

Family: Pleuroceridae

Rarity Ranks: G1/S1

State Legal Status: Endangered

Federal Legal Status: Endangered

Description: Shell is typically oval to globose in shape with a maximum length of approximately 20 mm ($\frac{7}{8}$ inch). Typically with three or less whorls and small striations covering the whorls. Periostracum light brown to orange, but some folds may be darker. Younger individuals often orange. Sutures very pronounced, but shoulders are weak. Columnella purple to white, darkening toward the base. Juveniles distinguishable from other juveniles of *Leptoxis* by tightly coiled whorls and strong placcations. Operculum typically red with coarse growth lines.

Similar Species: None

Habitat: Shallow runs with clean, mixed substrates, free of silt. Prefers velocities of 20 - 40 cm/second (Johnson and Evans 2000).

Diet: The diets of many freshwater gastropods likely consists of algae and/or bacteria which they scrape from the substrate, woody debris, and vegetation along waterways.

Life History: Females deposit their eggs from March through May. Individuals are thought to reproduce at age two and live until five years of age.

Survey Recommendations: Surveys should be conducted within the historic range in of this species in Georgia to locate any potential suitable habitat and reassess the status of this species.

Range: Endemic to the Coosa River basin, historically from the middle Coosa to the headwaters of the basin in the Conasauga, Coosawatee, and Etowah Rivers in Georgia. Currently restricted to a 12 km (7.2 miles) reach of the Oostanaula River in Gordon and Floyd Counties, Georgia.

Threats: Excess sedimentation due to inadequate riparian buffer zones, development, and agriculture cover suitable habitat. Poor agricultural practices may also cause eutrophication and degrade water quality. The primary problem seems to be severe water quality degradation in the Oostanaula River since 2000.

Georgia Conservation Status: The interrupted rocksnail is not known from any state or federal lands in Georgia. Unlike terrestrial species, the occurrence of an aquatic species on state or federal lands may not eliminate habitat degradation due to the influences of upstream and downstream disturbances.

Conservation and Management Recommendations: Minimizing sedimentation in the Oostanaula River will help recover suitable habitat for the interrupted rocksnail. If suitable habitat can be restored, species restoration through re-introduction/augmentation may be effective in increasing the range and abundance of the species.

Selected References:

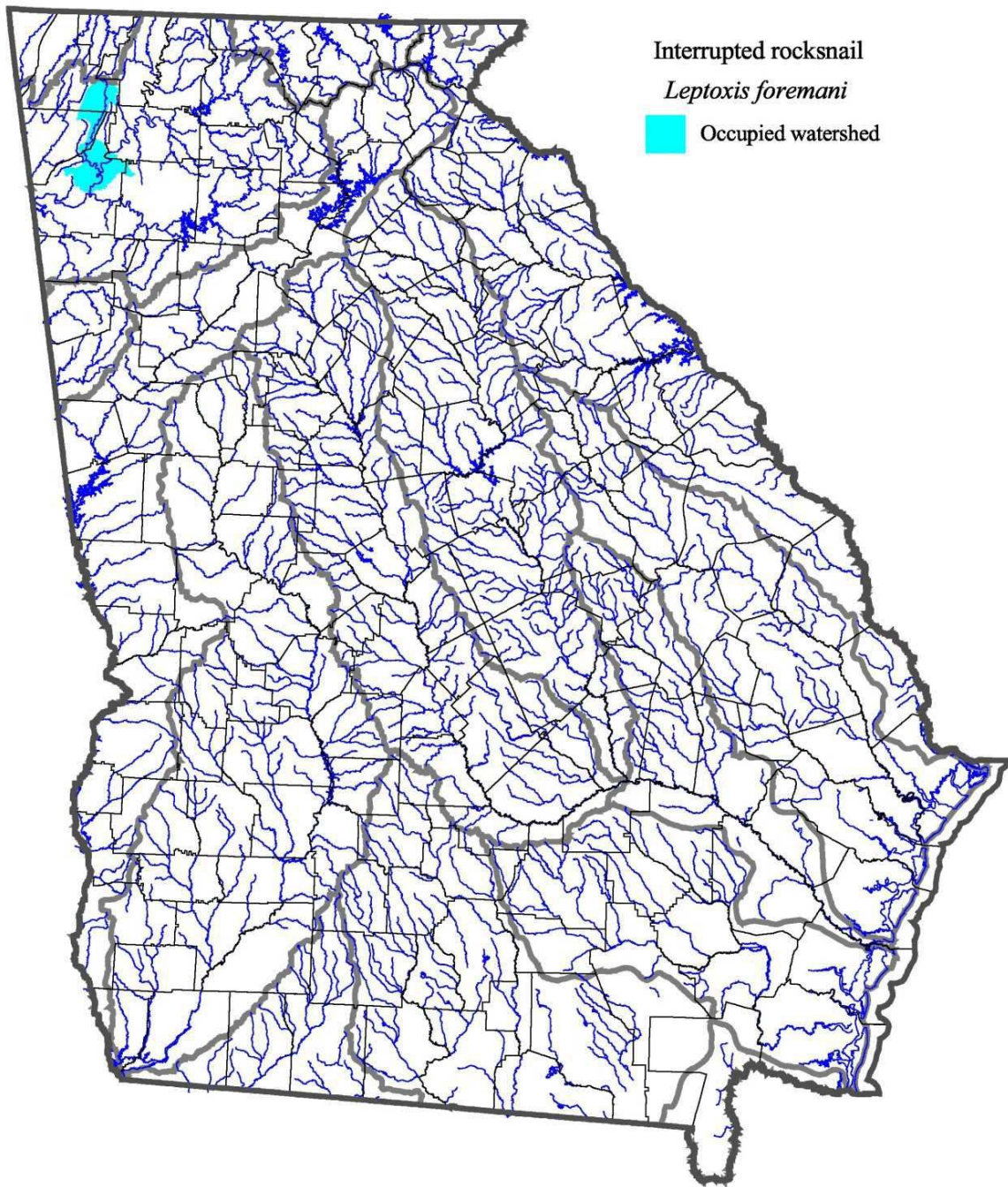
Johnson, P.D. 2004. Interrupted rocksnail *Leptoxis formani*. Pp. 116 in R.E. Mirarchi, J.T. Garner, M.F. Mettee, P.E. O'Neil (eds.). Alabama Wildlife, Volume 2, Imperiled Aquatic Mollusks and Fishes. The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa.

Author of Species Account: Jason Wisniewski

Date Compiled or Updated:

J. Wisniewski, September 2008: original account

M. Camp, December 2010: updated federal status



Watersheds (Huc 10) with known occurrences. Streams, county lines, and major river basin boundaries are also shown. Map generated from GADNR (Nongame Conservation Section) data on January 2009.