



The Oblong Rocksnail (*Leptoxis compacta*) Rediscovery Fact Sheet:

- This freshwater snail was historically restricted to the [Cahaba River](#) Basin in Bibb and Shelby counties, Alabama.
- The snail's historical range extended from Buck Creek in Helena, down the Cahaba River to Centerville, Alabama.
- The Oblong Rocksnail was last collected from the Cahaba River in 1935, and was formally declared extinct in 2000.
- The species was rediscovered on May 22, 2011 in a short stretch of the Cahaba River near the Bibb and Shelby county line.
- Additional survey efforts failed to locate the Oblong Rocksnail at other sites within historical range.
- The snail was believed driven to extinction by historically poor water quality and habitat degradation in the Cahaba River during the mid-20th Century.
- The identification of Oblong Rocksnail was confirmed with anatomical comparisons to individuals collected in 1881. Life history observations were made to document basic biology.
- Anatomical analyses were completed at the University of Alabama, Department of Biological Sciences, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- Life history and live animal observations were conducted at the [Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center](#) (AABC), an imperiled species recovery facility operated by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and located outside of Marion, Alabama.
- The Cahaba River is a 180-mile long river flowing through central Alabama from metropolitan Birmingham emptying into the [Alabama River](#) west of Selma.
- The Cahaba River Basin supports a high aquatic biodiversity including 121 species of [fish](#), 37 species of [mussels](#), and 38 species of [snails](#).
- The Cahaba River Basin supports 12 federally threatened and endangered species, the most listed species of any single drainage basin in Alabama.
- Recovery actions by numerous federal, state, local government agencies and private conservation groups have significantly improved water quality and riverine habitat in the Cahaba River since 1985.
- Because of an extremely small range, the Oblong Rocksnail warrants conservation attention.
- Future management plans for the Oblong Rocksnail includes an effort to establish a second population with animals produced through artificial propagation at the AABC.

For more information contact:

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Shell of the Oblong Rocksnail (*Leptoxis compacta*) collected from the Cahaba River in Shelby County, Alabama approximately 1881. Historical specimen from National Museum of Natural History collections: Smithsonian Institution (USNM 321957). Museum specimen photographed by Thomas Tarpley, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.



A live Oblong Rocksnail from the Cahaba River, Bibb County, Alabama. Specimen photographed by Thomas Tarpley, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Alabama Aquatic Biodiversity Center.