BURGUNDY SNAIL
Helicarion rubicundus

Status
Rare (Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995), due to its limited distribution.

Description
A land snail with a small, thin, transparent and fragile shell, which is greenish yellow in colour and measures 16–25 mm. The shell is flattened and the body can only be partly withdrawn into the shell.

The body colour is grey with bright red (burgundy) and green patterns. The mucus colour is red, a trait which distinguishes the species from the similar Helicarion cuvieri.

Distribution and habitat
The burgundy snail, Helicarion rubicundus, is known only from the Forestier and Tasman Peninsulas, and is present over most of the former but only a small area in the extreme north of the latter. Its total known extent of occurrence is 85 km², excluding water bodies. Major range extensions on the peninsulas are unlikely, but some parts of the adjacent mainland have not been surveyed.

The burgundy snail lives in closed wet forests. It is absent from dry forests (Taylor 1991) and ‘generally not found in damp sclerophyll forests, such as northerly facing slopes’ (Otley et al. 1999). It is most numerous in forests including eucalypts that shed gummy bark (e.g. E. regnans, E. viminalis, E. delegatensis). It appears to recover quickly from logging based on several records in wet forests around 15 years old (Taylor 1991) and has also been found in a 20 year old Eucalyptus sieberi plantation (Otley et al. 1999). Area of occupancy has been estimated at 50 km² (Bonham 2000b).
Juveniles often shelter together with juveniles of *H. cuvieri* in fresh rolls of gum bark. Adults are sometimes found in these situations, but more commonly occur under shelters, such as logs or rocks, or in deep drifts of leaf litter. Adults are often found in (presumably conjugal) pairs.

**Reading**


