

# *Actinella obserata*

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## Taxonomy

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Mollusca	Gastropoda	Stylommatophora	Hygromiidae

**Taxon Name:** *Actinella obserata* (R.T. Lowe, 1852)

### Taxonomic Notes:

Seddon (2008) noted that it appeared closely allied to the Quaternary fossil species *Actinella (Faustella) promontoriensis*, which also has a bisinuosity, which is more strongly developed, and a shell which appears more globose, with a more shouldered whorl (not as acutely keeled). *A. promontoriensis* is a common fossil species on the peninsular at the eastern end of the island.

## Assessment Information

**Red List Category & Criteria:** Critically Endangered B2ab(iii) [ver 3.1](#)

**Year Published:** 2013

**Date Assessed:** September 30, 2010

### Justification:

The species was listed as Vulnerable in 1994, based on Wells and Chatfield (1992). It was given a revised listing as Near Threatened in 1996, based on the same data-set. Since the Walden's surveys in 1970's there has been little new data on this species in spite of extensive survey work in the last known region on the island. Seddon (2008) suggested the species should now be considered as Data Deficient (version 3.1) due to the lack of recent records. However based on the presence at a single location on the south coast of Madeira in a region where there has been substantial changes to habitats in the last 40 years, then using the precautionary principle, the species is now listed as Critically Endangered (CR) B2ab(iii) rather than Data Deficient.

### Previously Published Red List Assessments

1996 – Lower Risk/near threatened (LR/nt)

1994 – Vulnerable (V)

## Geographic Range

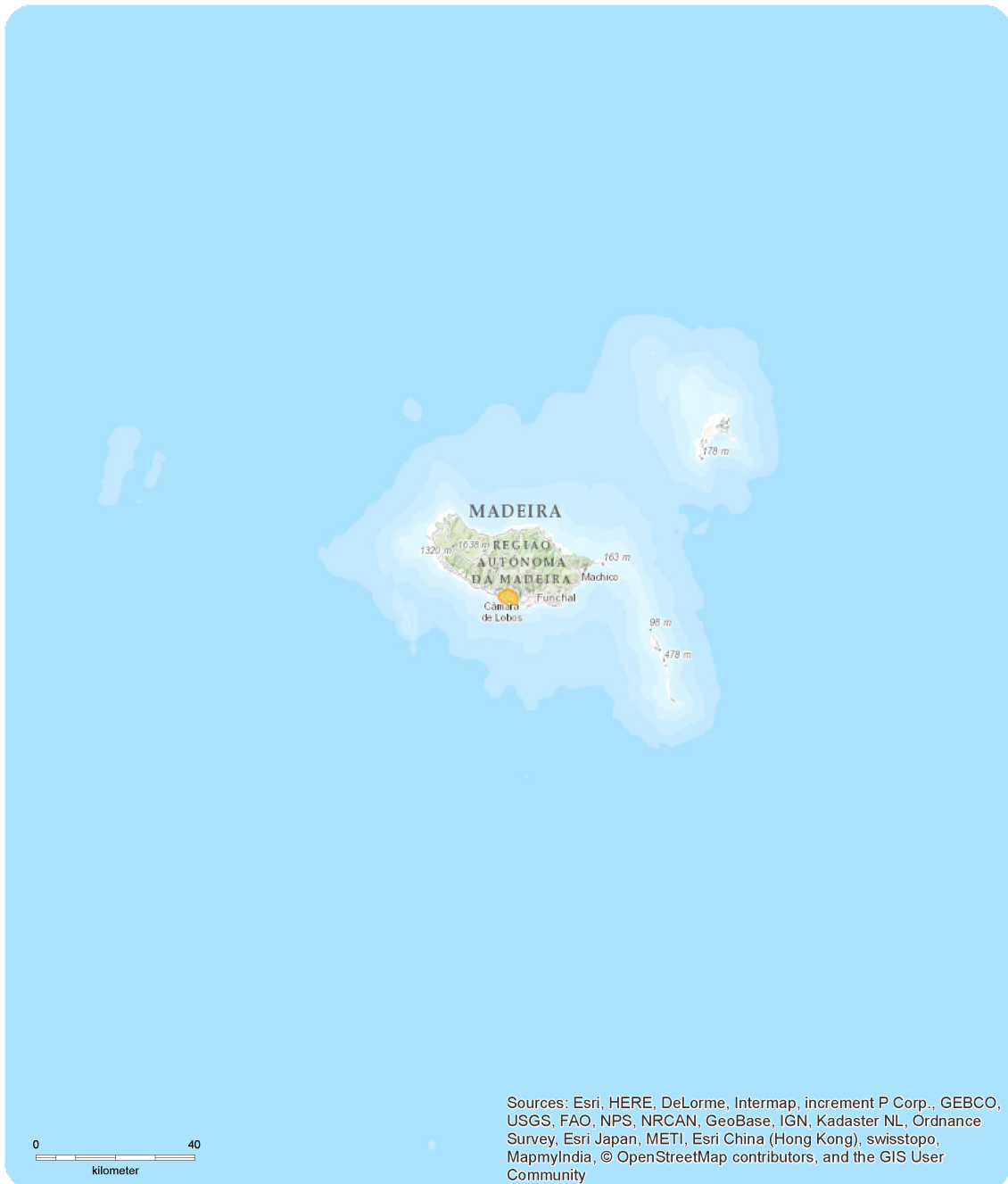
### Range Description:

This species is endemic to Madeira. It is recorded from a single site on the south side of the island, close to Funchal (Seddon 2008). There are been very few records of the *Actinella fausta* group of species (*A. robusta*, *A. obserata*, *A. carinofausta*, *A. fausta*) on the southern coast of Madeira, since Walden (1983) published his checklist where he suggested that there were several taxa with '*A. fausta*'.

### Country Occurrence:

**Native:** Portugal (Madeira)

# Distribution Map



## *Actinella obserata*

Range  
■ Extant (resident)

Compiled by:  
 IUCN

NE	DD	LC	NT	VU	EN	<b>&lt; CR &gt;</b> CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EW	EX
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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply any official endorsement, acceptance or opinion by IUCN.



## Population

There are no data on population trends, although the species is believed to be rare.

**Current Population Trend:** Unknown

## Habitat and Ecology (see Appendix for additional information)

It is believed to be present on ground and under stones in shrubby/grassland areas, but further research required to confirm the habitats.

**Systems:** Terrestrial

## Use and Trade

This species is not used.

## Threats (see Appendix for additional information)

The major threat in this part of Madeira is encroaching urbanisation, as well as the construction of an infrastructure to service these towns and villages. The region had been extensively modified with agriculture, hotel construction and urbanisation since Wollaston visited the island in the 1870's.

## Conservation Actions

There are been very few records of the *Actinella fausta* group of species (*A. robusta*, *A. obserata*, *A. carinofausta*, *A. fausta*) on the southern coast of Madeira, since Walden (1983) published his checklist where he suggested that there were several taxa with '*A. fausta*'. Research is needed to establish the taxonomy and distribution of this species on the island and to make a revised conservation assessment with suggested conservation actions.

## Credits

**Assessor(s):** Seddon, M.B.

**Reviewer(s):** Cameron, R., Groh, K., Cuttelod, A. & Neubert, E.

**Contributor(s):** Teixeira, D.

## Bibliography

IUCN. 2011. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (ver. 2011.1). Available at: <http://www.iucnredlist.org>. (Accessed: 16 June 2011).

Seddon, M.B. 2008. An illustrated compendium of the landsnails and slugs of the Madeiran archipelago. Studies in Biodiversity and Systematics of Terrestrial Organisms from the National Museum of Wales. Biotir Reports.

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## External Resources

For [Images and External Links to Additional Information](#), please see the Red List website.

# Appendix

## Habitats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Habitat	Season	Suitability	Major Importance?
0. Root -> 18. Unknown	-	Suitable	Yes

## Threats

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Threat	Timing	Scope	Severity	Impact Score
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.1. Housing & urban areas	Ongoing	Unknown	Slow, significant declines	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
1. Residential & commercial development -> 1.2. Commercial & industrial areas	Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
2. Agriculture & aquaculture -> 2.1. Annual & perennial non-timber crops -> 2.1.2. Small-holder farming	Ongoing	Unknown	Slow, significant declines	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		
4. Transportation & service corridors -> 4.1. Roads & railroads	Ongoing	Unknown	Causing/could cause fluctuations	Unknown
	Stresses:	1. Ecosystem stresses -> 1.2. Ecosystem degradation		

## Research Needed

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/classification-schemes>)

Research Needed
1. Research -> 1.1. Taxonomy
1. Research -> 1.2. Population size, distribution & trends

## Additional Data Fields

Distribution
Estimated area of occupancy (AOO) (km <sup>2</sup> ): 9
Number of Locations: 1
Population
Population severely fragmented: No

<b>Habitats and Ecology</b>
Continuing decline in area, extent and/or quality of habitat: Yes

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