

Some Land Gastropods of Soqotra



In total 100-110 species of land and freshwater gastropods have been recorded on Soqotra Archipelago, 95% of them are endemic. There is still not much known about their lifestyle and distribution. Because so many species are found nowhere else in the world except on these islands, it needs a special effort to protect and find out more about them. This leaflet shows species that are easy to detect.



Cinnabarica socotrana Earlier seen as a rare species, now known as widely distributed. The tip of the shell has a rosy apex; the animal lives on the bark of the Dragonblood tree.



Achatinelloides socotorensis The zig-zag patterned animals can usually be found aestivating in large clumps on wooden stems of large bushes or small trees.



Socotora naticoides One of the biggest shells found on the island. Adult animals reach up to 5cm in heigth. It lives under stones or deep in crevices or in the soil.



Achatinelloides tigris Similar to *A. socotorensis* but having an elongate shell and missing the rib-structure on the surface of the shell.



Passamaella polita Its bulbous shape and the denticles in the aperture gives the species a unique appearance. It is only found in high altitudes on the Hagghier Mountains.



Lithidion lithidion This small snail with the flat shell inhabits large parts of the island. It is absent from the higher altitudes of the Hagghier Mountains.



Zootecus contiguus This species is endemic to the island Abd al-Kuri. It can be found from the dry and deserted sand

and gravel plains up to the peaks.



Balfouria arguta This species is distributed over almost the whole island. Often the shell surface is camouflaged by mud glued on it by the animal.



Riebeckia socotorana If you take a closer look you will recognize a reticulate microsculpture on the surface of these enormously large fusiform shells.