



the  
species  
recovery  
trust

## *Triplax lacordairii*



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**Conservation Status:**  
Endangered

**Threat of Extinction:**  
Very high

**Main Threats:**  
Habitat loss,  
excessive  
foraging for  
mushrooms



## Southern Oyster Mushroom Beetle

**Description:** A small saproxylic beetle, 4-5mm in length with dark brown/black wing casings and amber thorax and legs.

**Lifecycle:** Dependent on *Pleurotus ostreatus* (oyster mushrooms) as host fungi, which live on decaying trees. Little is known about the relationships between the host trees, the oyster mushrooms and the beetles.

**Habitat:** Ancient woodlands with plenty of decaying trees that support fungi growth.

**Distribution:** Scattered throughout southern England, although may now be extinct at many of these sites.

**Status:** Endangered in IUCN European Red List of Saproxylic Beetles 2010.

**Reasons for decline:** Loss of ancient woodland and therefore deadwood. Human foraging of its host fungi species, oyster mushrooms, is suspected to have had an impact on population numbers.

**Protection under the Law:** None at present.

### What we are doing:

- Surveying known sites and other likely places to determine continued presence, status and habitat structure associations
- Raising awareness of the potential local impact of mushroom picking

### What you can do:

- Refrain from over-picking oyster mushrooms and try to discourage other people
- Become a species supporter and help fund the project

