

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## Red Centre Pinwheel Snail

### *Tateropa aemula*

#### Conservation status

**Australia: Not listed**

*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

**Northern Territory: Vulnerable**

*Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976*

#### Description

The Red Centre Pinwheel Snail is a very small Charopidae landsnail. Its white shell has a diameter of 1.9–2.25 mm and is characterised by a depressed spire, crowded radial sculpture and a thick parietal callus<sup>1</sup>.

#### Distribution

The Red Centre Pinwheel Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only from within an area of less than 1 km<sup>2</sup> around Penny Springs in the George Gill Ranges, south-west of Alice Springs. Targeted surveys in 2025 failed to locate the species at Kathleen Springs and Stokes Gorge (NTG, unpublished data).

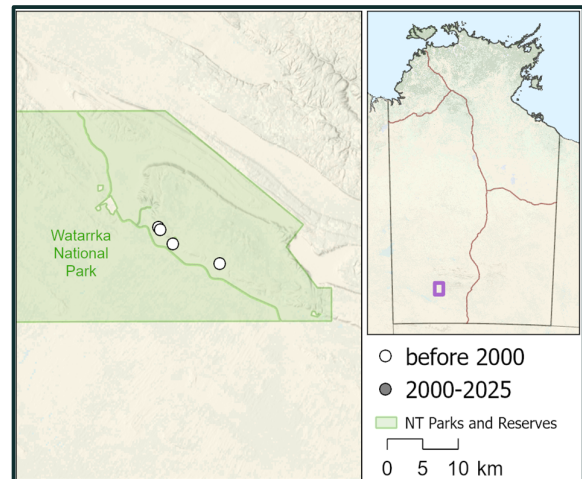
NT conservation reserves where reported:  
Watarrka National Park.

#### Ecology and life-history

The Red Centre Pinwheel Snail is found in leaf litter in relatively moist areas, under patches of ferns and cycads.



Photo: F. Köhler



Known localities of the Red Centre Pinwheel Snail in the NT  
([nrmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmaps.nt.gov.au))

#### Threatening processes

It is possible that the Red Centre Pinwheel Snail has always been extremely restricted in range, since there is no direct evidence that any external factors have caused a decline in distribution. However, the Red Centre Pinwheel Snail has a highly restricted geographic range and is susceptible to the impacts of Buffel Grass, wildfire and flood or drought events.

## Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Red Centre Pinwheel Snail in the NT. The management priority is to protect Penny Springs from wildfire through strategic fire breaks. Efforts to reduce fuel loads close to the springs through management of Buffel Grass would also be beneficial.

The research priority is to conduct further surveys to determine whether the species occurs elsewhere.

A monitoring program should be established for the species, with targeted surveys at Penny Springs following wildfire and extreme drought events.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Solem, A., 1988. Non-Camaenid land snails of the Kimberley and Northern Territory, Australia. I. Systematics, affinities and ranges. *Invertebr. Taxon.* 4, 455–605.