

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

LAND SNAIL

Basedowena squamulosa

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

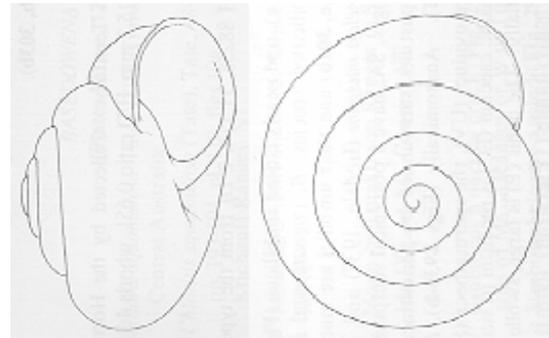


Illustration from Solem 1993

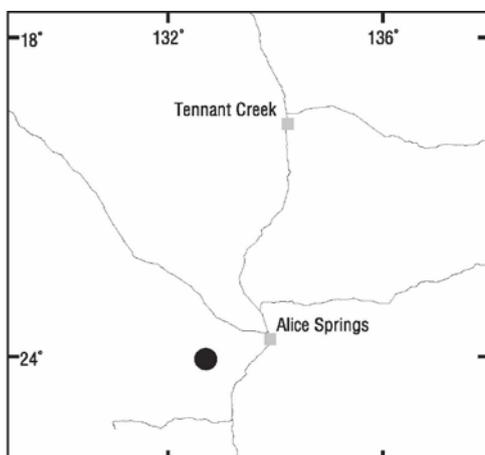
Description

Basedowena squamulosa is a medium-sized (shell diameter 13-18 mm) camaenid land snail. Distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993). Note that some recent taxonomies refer to this species as *Baccalena squamulosa*.

Distribution

This species is restricted to the Krichauff and James Ranges west of Alice Springs, between Palm Valley and Areyonga.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Finke Gorge National Park.



Known locations of *Basedowena squamulosa*

● = post 1970.

Ecology

It is usually associated with leaf litter under fig trees in or under rocks.

Conservation assessment

This species was first collected by the Horn Expedition of 1894. Almost nothing was reported about it again for the next hundred years, until Solem (1993) reported that it was relatively common in Palm Valley.

This species is one of a set of snail species listed here that are all relatively restricted in their geographic range and are exposed to processes that may lead to their decline. This species is classified as Vulnerable (under criteria B1ab(i,ii,iii)+2ab(i,ii,iii)) based on:

- extent of occurrence <20,000 km²;
- area of occupancy <2,000 km²;
- known to exist at <10 locations; and
- continuing decline observed, inferred or projected

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of this species. However, there has been no monitoring of status, and this species may be detrimentally affected by an increased frequency and/or intensity of fire, fuelled in part by invasive exotic grasses, particularly buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*).

Conservation objectives and management

There are no existing management programs land snail species in the Northern Territory.

Research priorities are:

- i. to conduct further surveys to determine whether populations occur elsewhere; and
- ii. to identify specific threats to any of the known populations.

A monitoring program should be established for at least representative populations. The management priority is to better safeguard the known populations through establishment of appropriate fire regimes.

Complied by

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References

Solem, A. (1993). Camaenid land snails from Western and central Australia (Mollusca: Pulmonata: Camaenidae). VI Taxa from the red centre. *Records of the Western Australian Museum Supplement* 43, 983-1459.