

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Ellery Creek squat snail

Semotrachia elleryi

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



Credit: C. M. Palmer

Description

The Ellery Creek Squat Snail is a small to medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 10–13 mm. Distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993)¹.

Distribution

The Ellery Creek Squat Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known from only three sites in the Ellery Creek basin: Serpentine Gorge and Ellery Creek Big Hole in the Heavitree Range west of Alice Springs, and about 40 km further south where Ellery Creek enters the Krichauff Ranges to join the Finke River.

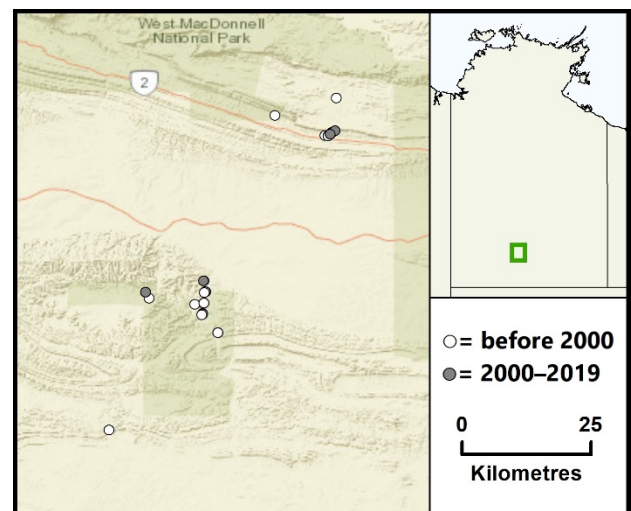
NT conservation reserves where reported: Finke Gorge National Park, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.

Ecology and life-history

There is no published information on the ecology of the Ellery Creek Squat Snail, other than that specimens have been collected under Desert Figs *Ficus brachypoda* and in talus at a cliff base.

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Ellery Creek Squat Snail. 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*.



Caption: Known localities of the Ellery Creek Squat Snail in the NT (nrmaps.nt.gov.au)

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Ellery Creek Squat Snail in the NT.

Research priorities are: to conduct further surveys to determine whether the species occurs elsewhere; and to identify specific threats at the known localities.

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

References

¹ Solem, A. (1993). Camaenid land snails from Western and central Australia (Mollusca: Pulmonata: Camaenidae). VI Taxa from the red centre. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. 43, 983–1459.