

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Emily Gap squat snail

Semotrachia emilia

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 Emily Gap Squat Snail is a medium-sized camaenid land snail with a shell diameter of 11–13 mm. The pale brown shell has a flat or barely elevated spire. Further distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993)¹. This species is slightly larger and has more closely spaced setae than the otherwise similar Jessie Gap Squat Snail *Semotrachia jessieana* from the nearby Jessie Gap.

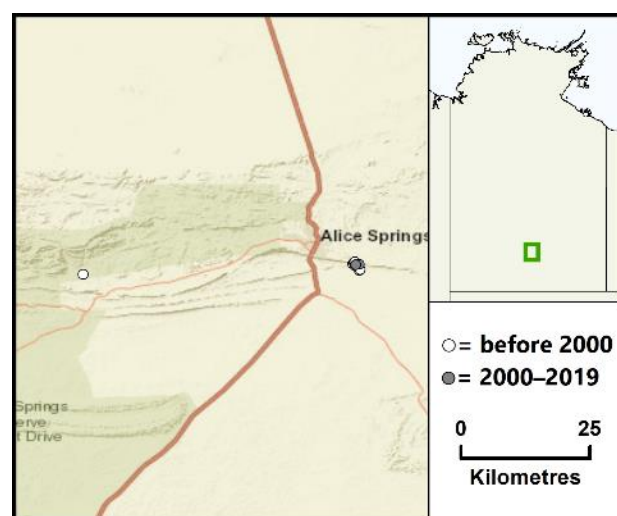
Distribution

The Emily Gap Squat Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT). The species was originally thought to be restricted to a small group of Desert Fig *Ficus brachypoda* trees in Emily Gap in the MacDonnell Ranges, east of Alice Springs. However, more recent museum collections attributed to this species extend the known range marginally.

NT conservation reserves where reported:
Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park.

Ecology and life-history

There is no published information on the ecology of the Emily Gap Squat Snail, other than that it aestivates attached to rock slabs in litter under a small patch of figs.



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

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Emily Gap 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*.

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Emily Gap 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. The management priority is to better safeguard the 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.