WINNECKE LAND SNAIL
Semotrachia winneckeana

Description
Semotrachia winneckeana is a very small (shell diameter 5.4-6.6 mm) camaenid land snail, with flat to at most slightly elevated spire. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

Distribution
This species is known from only two isolated sites in different drainage systems west of Alice Springs. One is in Spencer Gorge in the Chewings Range in the upper Hugh River catchment; the other is at Ellery Creek Big Hole in the Heavitree Range in the Finke River catchment. The two sites are 28 km apart. Solem (1993) was uncertain whether these two populations represented the same or different species; and he also noted that specimens from Standley Chasm (about 14 km east of the Spencer Gorge site) may also be referable to this species.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Owen Springs Reserve, West MacDonnell National Park.

Ecology
It occurs under rocks and in leaf litter under fig trees and in sheltered locations.

Conservation status
Australia: Not listed
Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Known locations of Semotrachia winneckeana

Conservation assessment
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 for 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 the known population; and

iii. to further refine the taxonomic position of this species

A monitoring program should be established for at least representative populations.

The management priority is to better safeguard the known population through establishment of appropriate fire regimes.

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[April 2006]

References