

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

WINNECKE LAND SNAIL

Semotrachia winneckeana

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

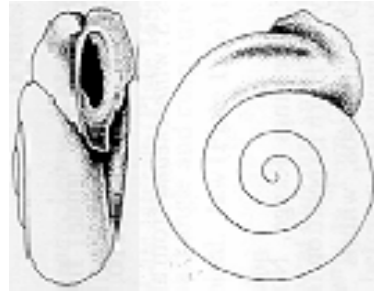


Illustration from Solem 1993

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

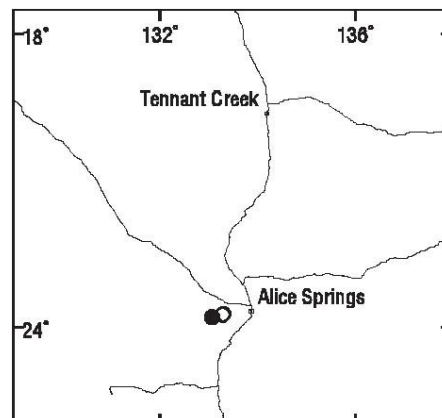
This species is known from only two isolated sites in different drainage systems west of Alice Springs. One is in Spencer Gorge in the Chewings Range in the upper Hugh River catchment; the other is at Ellery Creek Big Hole in the Heavitree Range in the Finke River catchment. The two sites are 28 km apart. 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.



Known locations of *Semotrachia winneckeana*

○ = pre 1970 ● = post 1970.

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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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.