

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Behn River keeled snail

Ordtrachia australis

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Endangered

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Behn River Keeled Snail is a medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 12–16 mm and a shell height of 6.5–9 mm. The light grey-brown shell has between 4.5 and 5.5 normally coiled whorls, the apex and spire are moderately and almost evenly elevated, and there is a sharply protruded peripheral keel¹.

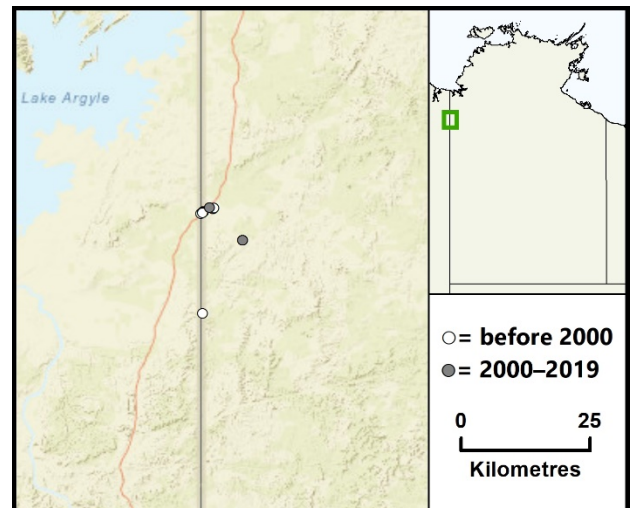
Distribution

The Behn River Keeled Snail is found only in the Ord Region, southeast of Lake Argyle, which straddles the Northern Territory (NT) and Western Australian border. Within the NT, the species has been recorded from only two areas, both on Rosewood Station: from a small area of low limestone exposures alongside the Duncan Highway, ~4 km south of Rosewood Station homestead, and from ~12 km southeast of the homestead. The species has been recorded in adjacent areas of Western Australia and ~115 km east of Halls Creek.

NT conservation reserves where reported: None.



Credit: V. Kessner



Caption: Known localities of the Behn River Keeled Snail in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

Ecology and life-history

Little is known of the ecology of the Behn River Keeled Snail. The species is found under limestone rocks in open woodland and in patches of scrub.

Threatening processes

Trampling by cattle causing breakage of shell and compaction of the soil, restricting the snail from either burrowing into the soil or being able to climb out, is a threat to the Behn River Keeled Snail². Frequent fires that change the vegetation

structure and composition also threaten the species.

The arrival of predatory Cane Toads *Rhinella marina* may contribute further to their decline². Cane Toads likely arrived in the Ord Region in the early 2010s.

Conservation objectives and management

There is no existing management program for the Behn River Keeled 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. Management priorities are: to better safeguard the known localities through encouragement of appropriate fire regimes and protection from heavy grazing; and to protect them from cane toads, if toads are found to eat the species.

References

¹ Solem, A., 1984. Camaenid land snails from Western and central Australia (Mollusca: Pulmonata: Camaenidae) IV Taxa from the Kimberley, Westraltrachia Iredale, 1933 and related genera. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. 17, 427–705.