

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

SPENCER'S LAND SNAIL

Bothriembryon spenceri

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: MAGNT

Description

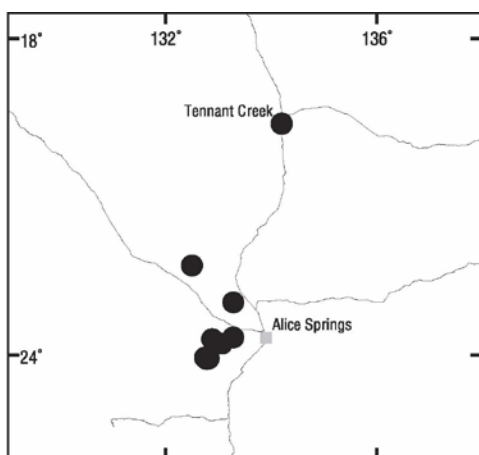
Bothriembryon spenceri is a moderately large land snail (shell diameter 16-20 mm).

Distribution

This species is largely restricted to the Krichauff and Chewings Ranges west of Alice Springs, notably occurring in Palm Valley (Solem 1988). It was first collected and described in the Horn Expedition of 1894.

Conservation reserves where reported:

Finke Gorge National Park, West MacDonnell National Park.



Known locations of *Bothriembryon spenceri*

● = post 1970.

Ecology

This snail is found in leaf litter under fig trees and/or rocky areas. During unfavourable periods it buries in the soil.

Conservation assessment

This species is one of a set of snail species listed here that are all relatively restricted and presumably relictual in their geographic range and are exposed to processes that may lead to their decline. This species is classified as **Vulnerable** (under criteria B2ab(i,ii,iii)) based on:

- 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 any of the known populations.

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

Complied by

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References

Solem, A. (1988). Non-camaenid land snails of the Kimberley and Northern Territory, Australia. I. Systematics, affinities and ranges. *Invertebrate Taxonomy* 2, 455-604.