

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## LAND SNAIL

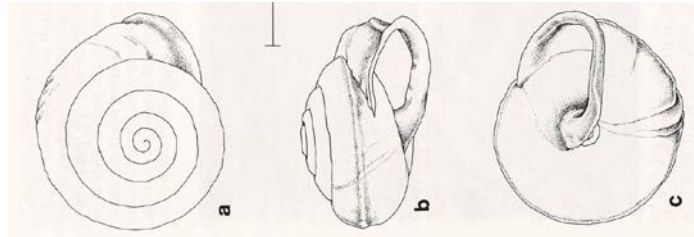
### *Ordtrachia septentrionalis*

#### Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Endangered

Illustration from Solem 1984



#### Description

*Ordtrachia septentrionalis* is a medium-sized camaenid land snail (shell diameter: 11-14 mm; height: 7-9 mm), with 4.5-5.5 normally-coiled whorls. The apex and spire are moderately and evenly elevated (Solem 1984).

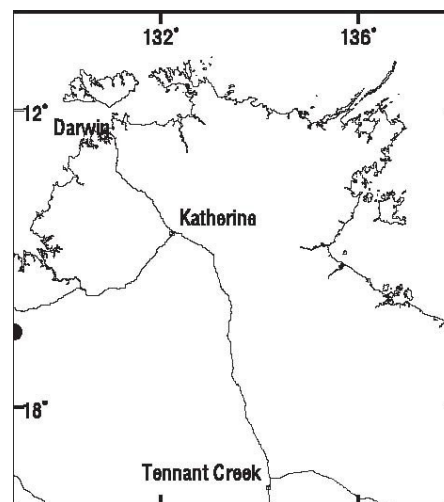
#### Distribution

This snail is found only on a small area of low limestone exposures along 1.4 km of road south of the Rosewood Station turnoff along the Duncan Highway, and in a small area of limestone 8 km to the west, in The Rock Wall on Rosewood Station (actually just into Western Australia) (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*).

*Conservation reserves where reported:*  
None.

#### Ecology

This snail is found among scattered limestone boulders and blocks exposed in open savanna in areas subject to heavy flooding. The snails ascend trees to survive flood events. The limestone blocks vary from a few centimetres to a couple of metres in diameter, but rarely project more than a few centimetres above ground level (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*).



Known locations of *Ordtrachia septentrionalis*.

● = post 1970.

#### Conservation assessment

*Ordtrachia septentrionalis* is very restricted in range and habitat. There have been only three collections of the species, by two different collectors, all during the 1980s. There are no quantitative data to assess decline, but there is evidence of damage done by cattle in the areas (churned soil and broken shells) and frequent fires (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*)

The species qualifies as Endangered (under criteria B1ab(iii)+ B2ab(iii)) based on:

- extent of occurrence <5000 km<sup>2</sup>;
- area of occupancy <500 km<sup>2</sup>;
- severely fragmented; and
- continuing decline, observed, inferred or projected.

### Threatening processes

Vince Kessner (*pers. comm.*) considers the threatening processes for this species to be 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. The snail may also be affected by frequent fires, which are causing changes to the vegetation structure and composition.

The arrival of predatory cane toads may contribute to their decline (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*). Cane toads are likely to invade this area between 2007 and 2010.

### Conservation objectives and management

There are no existing management programs for land snail species in the Northern Territory.

Research priorities are:

- to conduct further surveys to determine whether populations occur elsewhere; and
- to identify specific threats to all of the known populations.

A monitoring program should be established.

Management priorities are:

- to better safeguard the known populations 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.

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### References

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. *Records of the Western Australian Museum* Supplement 17, 427-705.