

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

LAND SNAIL

Dirutrachia sublevata

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

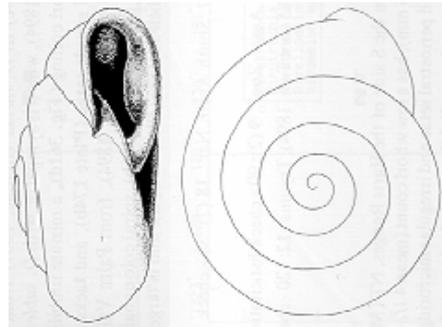


Illustration from Solem 1993

Description

Dirutrachia sublevata is a medium-sized (shell diameter 13-17 mm) camaenid land snail, with a low whorl count. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

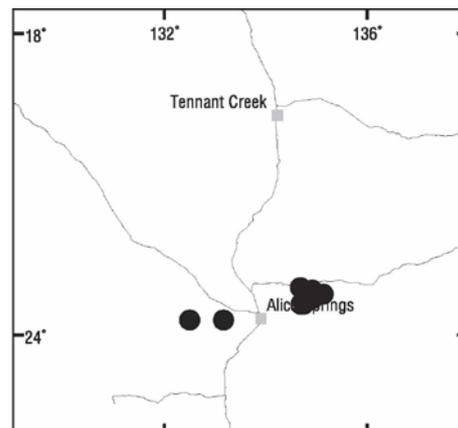
Distribution

Solem (1993) considered that this snail is found only in the basins of Maud and Florence Creeks on the south side of the Harts Range, northeast of Alice Springs. Its distribution extends for "much less than 5 km" (Solem 1993) along the range, and its known occurrence within that range is no more than several hundred square metres. Some more recent museum collections attributed to this species extend this known range marginally.

Conservation reserves where reported:
West MacDonnell National Park.

Ecology

It is found in talus, in soil under rocks or in crevices deep in rock piles (Solem 1993).



Known locations of *Dirutrachia sublevata*

● = post 1970.

Conservation assessment

This species was first collected by the Horn Expedition of 1894. Almost nothing was reported about it again for the next hundred years; recent surveys in central Australia have only marginally expanded its known range and provided little information on current population size.

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 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.

Compiled by

Colin Wilson
John Woinarski
Vince Kessner
Michael Braby
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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.