

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## Krichauff Ranges squat snail

### *Semotrachia esau*

#### Conservation status

##### Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

##### Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

#### Description

The Krichauff Ranges Squat Snail is a medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 9–15 mm. The light brown shell has a moderately elevated spire<sup>1</sup>. This species differs from the similar Ellery Creek Squat Snail *Semotrachia elleryi* by its shorter and more crowded periostacal setae.

#### Distribution

The Krichauff Ranges Squat Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known primarily from scattered localities in the MacDonnell Ranges. A seemingly isolated population occurs south of the ranges in the Palmer River drainage, which may have become established following an exceptional flood event<sup>1</sup>. Most records have been collected in the vicinity of the Finke River and Palm Creek in the Krichauff Ranges.

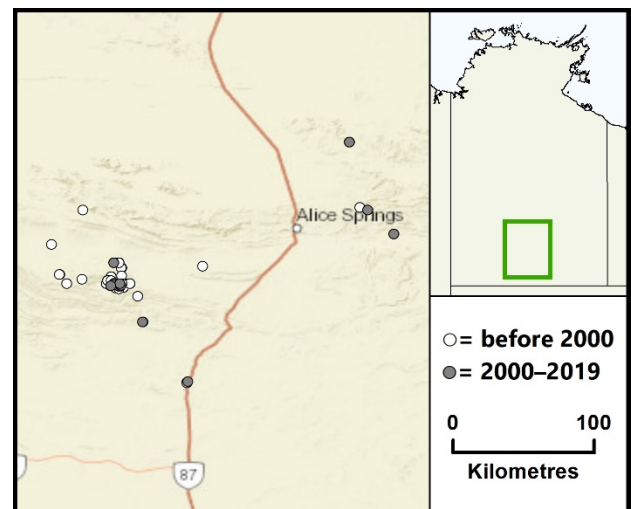
NT conservation reserves where reported: Finke Gorge National Park, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park and Owen Springs Reserve.



Credit: T. Robinson & P. Hunt/South Australian Museum

#### Ecology and life-history

There is no published information on the ecology of the Krichauff Ranges Squat Snail, other than that most collections have come from underneath Desert Fig *Ficus brachypoda* trees and some have been found underneath spinifex.



Caption: Known localities of the Krichauff Ranges Squat Snail in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

#### Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Krichauff Ranges Squat Snail. 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 is currently no management program for the Krichauff Ranges Squat 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. The management priority is to better safeguard the known localities through establishment of appropriate fire regimes.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Solem, A., 1993. Camaenid land snails from Western and central Australia (Mollusca: Pulmonata: Camaenidae). VI Taxa from the red centre. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. 43, 983–1459.