

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

LAND SNAIL

Semotrachia esau

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

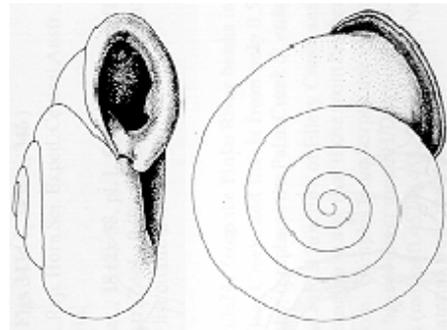


Illustration from Solem 1993

Description

Semotrachia esau is a medium-sized (shell diameter 9-15 mm) camaenid land snail. Distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

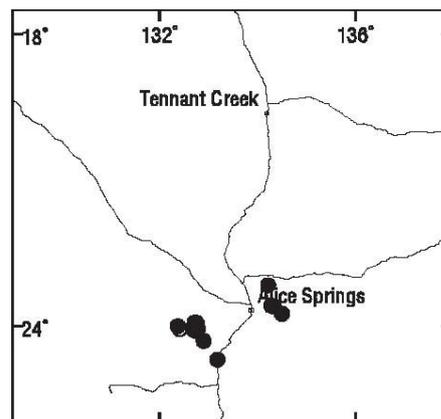
Distribution

Solem (1993) reported that this snail was known only from a small area along the Finke River and Palm Creek in the Krichauff Ranges west of Alice Springs, with a single isolated colony in the Palmer River drainage 78 km to the southeast. The disjunct occurrence in the Palmer River could have resulted from accidental transport of snails during an exceptional flooding of the Finke River. Some more recent museum collections attributed to this species extend this known range marginally.

Conservation reserves where reported: Finke Gorge National Park.

Ecology

There is no published information on the ecology of this species, other than that specimens have been collected under figs (mostly) or under spinifex.



Known locations of *Semotrachia esau*

●= post 1970.

Conservation assessment

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.

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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.