

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## Alice Springs squat snail

### *Semotrachia euzyga*

#### Conservation status

##### Australia: Endangered

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

##### Northern Territory: Endangered

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976



Credit: C. M. Palmer

#### Description

The Alice Springs Squat Snail is a small yellow-brown camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of about 8 mm and a slightly elevated spire and reduced whorl count<sup>1</sup>. It differs from the otherwise similar *S. emilia* and *S. jessieana* by its smaller shell with shorter and more widely spaced periostracal setae.

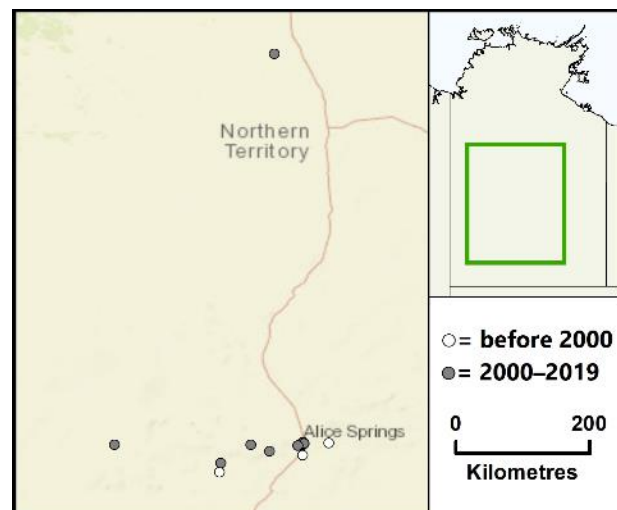
#### Distribution

The Alice Springs Squat Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT). Although recent museum collections have extended its known range slightly, it has a highly restricted distribution. Known populations occur within about 1 km<sup>2</sup> along the Todd River in Alice Springs, on nearby Choritza Hill, and on Mt Gillen less than 8 km away. It has almost disappeared from the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve.

NT conservation reserves where reported: Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve, Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.

#### Ecology and life-history

The Alice Springs Squat Snail is restricted to areas around Desert Fig trees *Ficus brachypoda*, where they live in rocky litter under the figs and adults aestivate sealed to rocks.



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

## Threatening processes

If Desert Fig trees that the species depends upon are removed or die within an area, the Alice Springs Squat Snail will disappear from that area. The invasive Buffel Grass *Cenchrus ciliaris*, which is now abundant in habitat occupied by the Alice Springs Squat Snail, is a significant threat to the species. Increased fuel loads due to Buffel Grass alters the fire regime by promoting more frequent, extensive and/or intense fires. Urban development in and around Alice Springs also threatens the species.

## Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Alice Springs Squat Snail in the NT.

Research priorities are: to conduct further surveys to determine whether populations occur elsewhere; and to identify specific threats to all of the known populations.

Management priorities are: to protect the habitat from urban expansion; to better safeguard the known populations through establishment of appropriate fire regimes; and to establish a monitoring program.

## 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.

<sup>2</sup> Threatened Species Scientific Committee, 2006. Commonwealth Listing Advice on *Semotrachia euzyga*. Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, Canberra.