

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## LAND SNAIL

### *Semotrachia euzyga*

#### Conservation status

Australia: Endangered

Northern Territory: Endangered

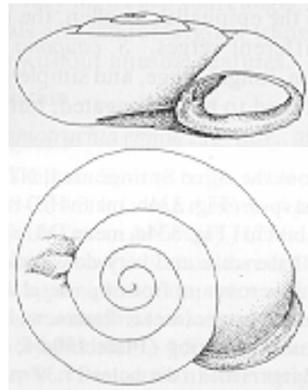


Illustration from Solem 1993

#### Description

*Semotrachia euzyga* is a small yellow-brown camaenid land snail, c. 8.0 mm in diameter, with a slightly elevated spire and reduced whorl count (Solem 1993).

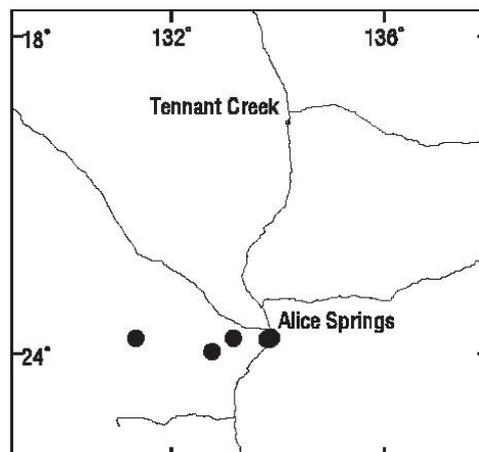
#### Distribution

This species is endemic to the Northern Territory. Although recent museum collections have extended its known range slightly, it is highly restricted, with locations including about 1 km<sup>2</sup> along the Todd River in Alice Springs, on nearby Choritza Hill, and Mt Gillen less than 8 km away (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*).

*Conservation reserves where reported:* Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve (but it has almost disappeared from the area), West MacDonnell National Park.

#### Ecology

The species is restricted to areas around fig trees. The snails live in rocky litter under the figs and adults aestivate sealed to rocks (Solem 1993).



Known locations of *Semotrachia euzyga*  
● = post 1970

#### Conservation assessment

*Semotrachia euzyga* has very specific habitat requirements and has a highly restricted distribution, with most records within 10 km of the centre of Alice Springs. The species is believed to be declining (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*), but there have not been repeated counts at any location.

The species qualifies as Endangered (under criteria B2ab(iii,v)) based on:

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

## Threatening processes

This species is badly affected by fires in the exotic buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), which is abundant in the area, and by urban development. If the associated fig trees are removed or die, the snails will disappear from the area (V. Kessner *pers. comm.*).

## 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 all of the known populations.

Management priorities are:

- i. to protect the habitat from urban expansion;
- ii. to better safeguard the known populations through establishment of appropriate fire regimes; and
- iii. to establish a monitoring program.

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[April 2006]

## 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.