

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

LAND SNAIL

Divellomelon hillieri

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

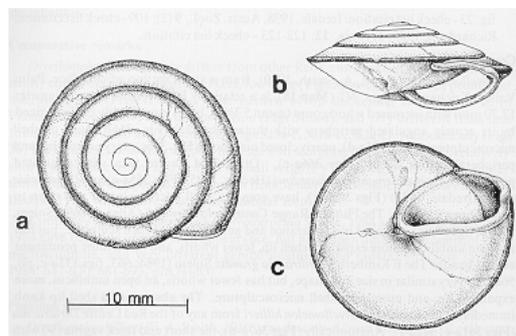


Illustration from Solem 1993

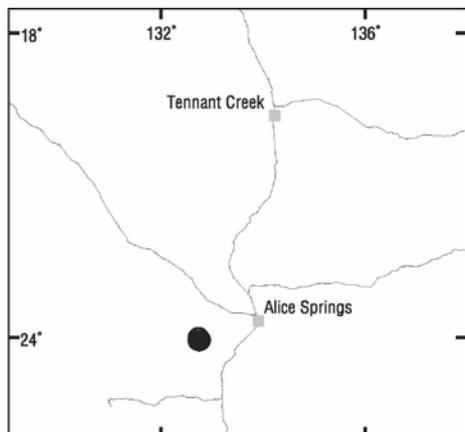
Description

Divellomelon hillieri is a relatively large (shell diameter 16.3-18.6 mm) camaenid land snail, with acutely angulated periphery with thread-like keel, lack of shell microsculpture and very narrow lip. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

Distribution

This species has been recorded only along a few hundred metres of cliff face in Palm Valley in the Krichauff Ranges west of Alice Springs.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Finke Gorge National Park.



Known locations of *Divellomelon hillieri*

● = post 1970.

Ecology

It is found amongst rock rubble and litter at the bottom of deep vertical rock fissures, although there have also been a few specimens reported from “under figs” nearby (Solem 1993).

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 B1ab(i,ii,iii)+2ab(i,ii,iii)) based on:

- extent of occurrence <20,000 km²;
- 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 the known population.

A monitoring program should be established. The management priority is to better safeguard the known population 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.