

# Threatened species of the Northern Territory

## Hillier's keeled snail

### *Divellomelon hillieri*

#### Conservation status

##### Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

##### Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

#### Description

Hillier's Keeled Snail is a relatively large camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 16–19 mm. The light brown shell lacks microsculpture and has narrow pinkish brown spiral bands, an acutely angulated periphery with a thread-like keel, and a very narrow lip and lacks shell microsculpture<sup>1</sup>.

#### Distribution

Hillier's Keeled Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only from a few hundred metres of cliff face in Palm Valley in the Krichauff Ranges west of Alice Springs.

NT conservation reserves where reported: Finke Gorge National Park.

#### Ecology and life-history

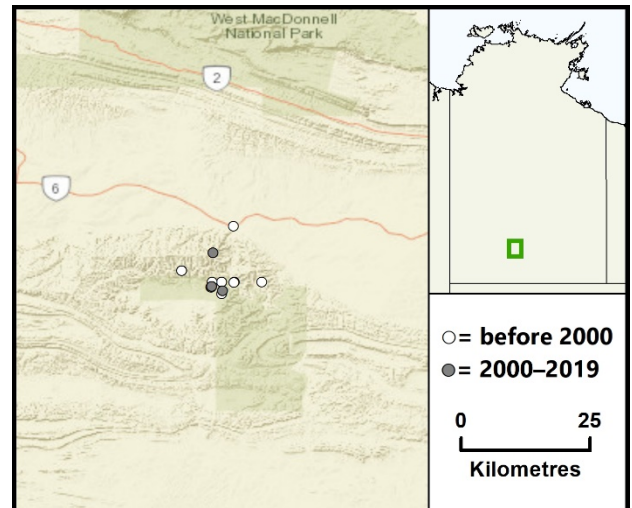
Hillier's Keeled Snail occurs amongst rock rubble and litter at the bottom of deep vertical rock fissures, although there have also been a few specimens reported from under nearby Desert Fig *Ficus brachypoda* trees<sup>1</sup>.



Credit: V. Kessner

#### Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of *D. hillieri*. 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*.



Caption: Known localities of Hillier's Keeled Snail in the NT ([nrmmaps.nt.gov.au](http://nrmmaps.nt.gov.au))

## Conservation objectives and management

There are no existing management programs for *D. hillieri* 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 locality.

A monitoring program should be established. The management priority is to better safeguard the known locality 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. Supplement 43, 983-1459.