

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Melville squat-keeled snail

Trochomorpha melvillensis

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Melville Squat-keeled Snail is a distinctive medium-sized non-camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 9.9–12.35 mm. The shell has a spiral red band, sharp peripheral keel, depressed spire, crowded radial sculpture and a thick parietal callus¹.

Distribution

The Melville Squat-keeled Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only Melville Island (Garden Point, Timarambu Ck and Milakapiti).

NT conservation reserves where reported: None.

Ecology and life-history

The Melville Squat-keeled Snail is found under logs and underneath the bark of trees in coastal monsoon rainforests.

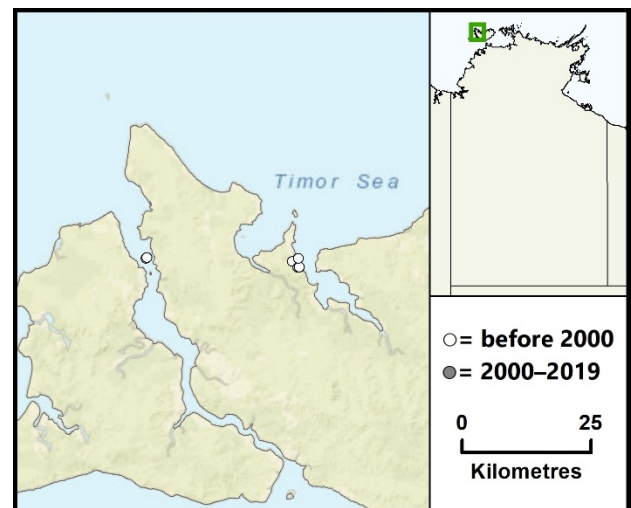


Credit: MAGNT

Threatening processes

It is possible that Melville Squat-keeled Snail has always been extremely restricted in range, since there is no direct evidence that any external factors have yet shown a decline in population size or distribution.

However, in general, land snails are susceptible to the impacts of an increased frequency and intensity of fire. Invasive exotic pastures can markedly increase fuel loads and therefore increase the frequency of destructive fires.



Caption: Known localities of the Melville Squat-keeled Snail in the NT (nrmaps.nt.gov.au)

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for Melville Squat-keeled Snail 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 for the species. The management priority is to better safeguard the known locality through containing the spread of exotic grasses.

References

¹ Solem, A., 1988. Non-Camaenid land snails of the Kimberley and Northern Territory, Australia. I. Systematics, affinities and ranges. *Invertebr. Taxon.* 4, 455–605.