

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## LAND SNAIL

### *Trochomorpha melvillensis*

#### Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable



Photo: MAGNT

#### Description

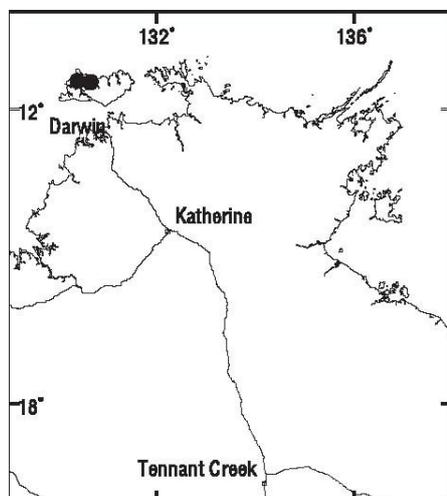
*Trochomorpha melvillensis* is a distinctive medium-sized (diameter 9.9 – 12.35 mm) non-camaenid land snail, with a spiral red band and sharp peripheral keel. It has a depressed spire, crowded radial sculpture and a thick parietal callus (Solem 1988).

#### Distribution

The few records of this species are all from Melville Island (Garden Point, Timarambu Ck and Milakapiti).

*Conservation reserves where reported:*

None.



Known locations of *Trochomorpha melvillensis*

● = post 1970

#### Ecology

This species occurs under logs and under the bark of trees in coastal monsoon rainforests.

#### Conservation assessment

This species appears to be restricted to Melville Island. Its known range is highly restricted; and there has been sufficient survey effort in the region to suggest that it is highly localised. It fits the criteria for **Vulnerable** (under criterion D2) based on:

- area of occupancy < 20 km<sup>2</sup>; and
- known to exist at <5 locations.

#### Threatening processes

It is possible that this land snail has always been extremely restricted in range as there is no direct evidence that any factors have yet caused a decline in their numbers or distribution. However, in general, land snails are susceptible to the impacts of an increased frequency and intensity of fire, a change potentially exacerbated by spread of exotic pasture grasses.

## **Conservation objectives and management**

There is no existing management program 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.

Management priorities are:

- i. to better safeguard the known populations through containing the spread of exotic grasses; and
- ii. to establish a monitoring program for the species.

## **Complied by**

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## **References**

Solem, A. (1988). Non-Camaenid land snails of the Kimberley and Northern Territory, Australia. I. Systematics, affinities and ranges. *Invertebrate Taxonomy* 4, 455-605.