

Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

WATT'S LAND SNAIL

Vidumelon wattii

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

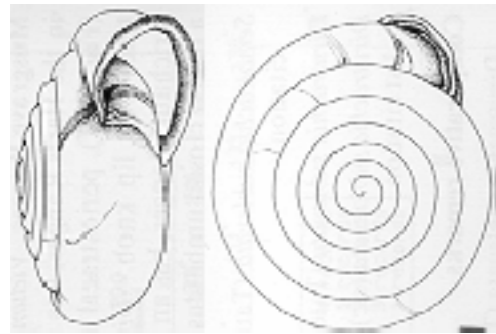


Illustration from Solem 1993

Description

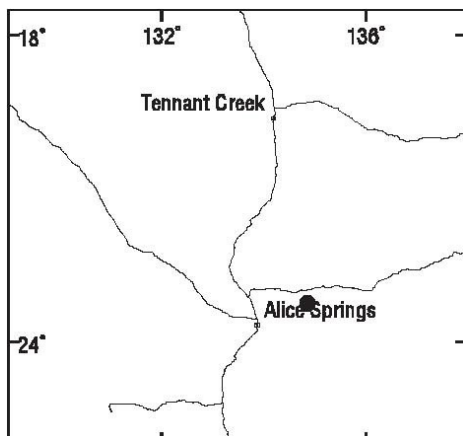
Vidumelon wattii is a small to medium-sized (shell diameter 10-12 mm) and distinctive camaenid land snail, with many very tightly coiled whorls. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

Distribution

This snail is restricted to the basins of Maud and Florence Creeks on the south side of the Harts Range, northeast of Alice Springs. Solem (1993) considered that the total population range was 5-10 km.

Conservation reserves where reported:

None.



Known locations of *Vidumelon wattii*

• = post 1970

Ecology

Whereas most of the snails listed here have specialised teeth adapted to scraping algae off rocks, this species has the teeth of a generalist feeder on dead plant matter. Within its narrow known range, it has been reported to be common in leaf litter and relatively scarce under rocks (Solem 1993). It aestivates in soil.

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*). Cattle may affect this species through direct trampling mortality or through compaction of soil.

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 any of the known populations.

A monitoring program should be established for at least representative populations.

The management priority is to better safeguard the known populations 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.