

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Tiwi Islands treesnail

Amphidromus cognatus

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Tiwi Islands Treesnail is a large camaenid land snail, with a shell length of 21–33 mm and a shell diameter of 12–17 mm. The large shiny shell is yellow, and often has a variable number of chocolate-brown spiral bands and a purplish-brown apical suffusion. The elongately ovate and brightly coloured shell with sinistral coiling readily distinguish this species from other land snails.

Distribution

Amphidromus species are widely distributed in south-western Asia and India, but the Tiwi Islands Treesnail is the only representative that occurs in Australia, where it is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT)¹. The only confirmed records of this species are from three sites on Melville Island and one site on Bathurst Island, collected between 1976 and 1980¹. The original collection locality was evidently mistakenly reported to be Port Essington on the Cobourg Peninsula².

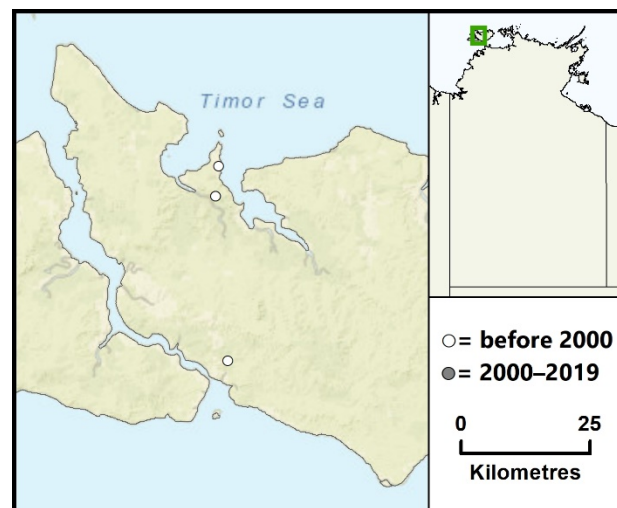
NT conservation reserves where reported: Garig Gunak Barlu National Park.



Credit: V. Kessner

Ecology and life-history

The Tiwi Islands Treesnail is arboreal. Most records are from collections made in trees, and the woody vine *Opilia amentacea*, in coastal monsoon rainforests.



Caption: Known localities of the Tiwi Islands Treesnail in the NT (nrmaps.nt.gov.au)

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. This species may be detrimentally affected by an increased frequency and/or intensity of fire. Other potential threats include impacts of grazing by feral ungulates, and predation by Cane Toads *Rhinella marina*.

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Tiwi Islands Treesnail in the NT.

Research priorities are: to conduct further surveys to determine whether the species occurs elsewhere; and to identify specific threats at known localities.

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

References

¹ Solem, A., 1983. First record of *Amphidromus* from Australia, with anatomical notes on several species (Mollusca: Pulmonata: Camaenidae). Rec. Aust. Mus. 35, 153–166.

² V. Kessner personal communication