

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Illara Waterhole squat snail

Semotrachia illarana

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Illara Waterhole Squat Snail is a small camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 7–8 mm. The pale brown shell is characterised by long, very crowded periostracal setae¹.

Distribution

The Illara Waterhole Squat Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only from Illara Waterhole south of the James Ranges on a tributary of the Palmer River, southwest of Alice Springs. Another putative locality, near Areyonga (28 km to the north of Illara Waterhole), probably represents a distinct species¹.

NT conservation reserves where reported: None.

Ecology and life-history

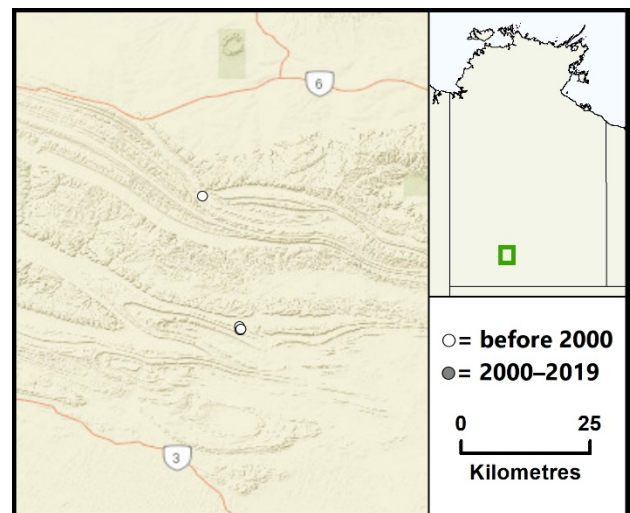
There is no published information on the ecology of the Illara Waterhole Squat Snail, other than that the only collections have come from leaf litter under a Desert Fig *Ficus brachypoda* trees.



Credit: V. Kessner

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Illara Waterhole Squat Snail. 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 the Illara Waterhole Squat Snail in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Illara Waterhole Squat 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. The management priority is to better safeguard the known locality through establishment of appropriate fire regimes.

References

¹ Solem, A. 1993. Camaenid land snails from Western and central Australia (Mollusca: Pulmonata: Camaenidae). VI Taxa from the red centre. Rec. West. Aust. Mus. Suppl. 43, 983–1459.