Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

LAND SNAIL

Granulomelon grandituberculatum

Description
Granulomelon grandituberculatum is a medium-sized (shell diameter 14-17 mm) camaenid land snail, characterised by its high spire and greatly reduced radial sculpture. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

Distribution
This snail species has been recorded only in the basins of Maud and Florence Creeks on the south side of the Harts Range, northeast of Alice Springs.

Conservation reserves where reported: None.

Ecology
This species has very specific habitat requirements, being found in deep crevices in talus (V. Kessner pers. comm.).

Conservation assessment
This species was first collected by the Horn Expedition of 1894. Almost nothing was reported about it again for the next hundred years; recent surveys in central Australia have only marginally expanded its known range and provided little information on current population size, although Solem (1993) collected it “in quantity”.

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 external 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*).

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.

Complied by

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[April 2006]

References