Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Jessie Gap squat snail

Semotrachia jessieana

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable
Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Credit: C. M. Palmer

Description

The Jessie Gap Squat Snail is a small to medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 10–12 mm and a nearly flat spire[1]. This species is slightly smaller and has more widely spaced setae than the otherwise similar Emily Gap Squat *Semotrachia emilia* from the nearby Emily Gap.

Distribution

The Jessie Gap Squat Snail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is has been found only underneath a small patch of Desert Figs *Ficus brachypoda* at Emily Gap in the MacDonnell Ranges, east of Alice Springs.

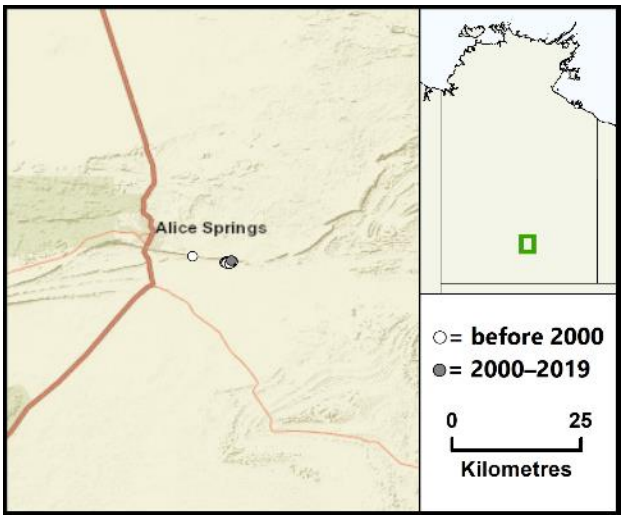
NT conservation reserves where reported: Yeperenye/Emily and Jessie Gaps Nature Park.

Ecology and life-history

There is no published information on the ecology of the Jessie Gap Squat Snail, other than that the collected specimens were found while aestivating on small rocks in litter under a small patch of figs. This site is in well-shaded rubble moistened by seepage at the side of a near-permanent pool.

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Jessie Gap 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*.



Credit: Known localities of the Jessie Gap Squat Snail in the NT (nrmaps.nt.gov.au)

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Jessie Gap 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.