

# Threatened Species of the Northern Territory

## LAND SNAIL

### *Semotrachia jessieana*

#### Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

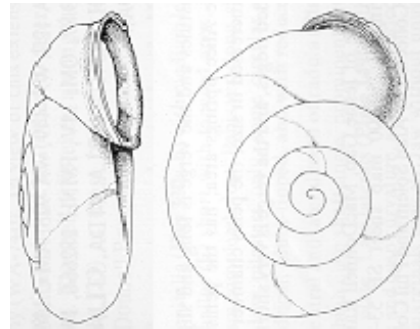


Illustration from Solem 1993

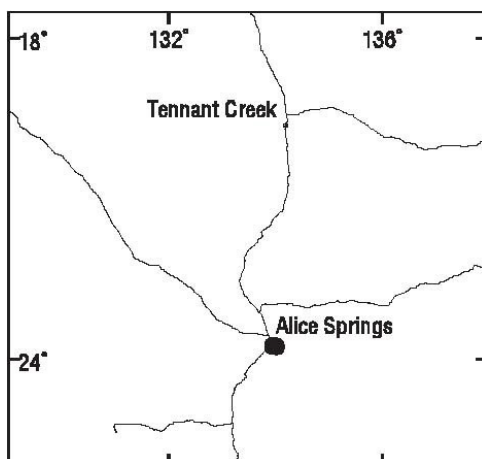
#### Description

*Semotrachia jessieana* is a small to medium-sized (shell diameter 10-12 mm) camaenid land snail, with nearly flat spire. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993).

#### Distribution

Like the related *S. emilia* in nearby Emily Gap, this snail has been found only under a single small group of fig trees, this time in Jessie Gap in the MacDonnell Ranges, east of Alice Springs.

*Conservation reserves where reported:*  
Emily & Jessie Gaps Nature Park.



Known locations of *Semotrachia jessieana*

● = post 1970.

#### Ecology

There is no published information on the ecology of this species, 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 (Solem 1993).

#### 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 km<sup>2</sup>;
- area of occupancy < 2,000 km<sup>2</sup>;
- 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*).

## **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 the known population.

A monitoring program should be established.

The management priority is to better safeguard the known population through establishment of appropriate fire regimes.

## **Complied by**

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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.