

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Palm Valley rocksnail

Granulomelon squamulosum

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Palm Valley Rocksnail is a medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 13–18 mm. The shell is brown and has a low spire. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993)¹.

Distribution

The Palm Valley Rocksnail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only from the Krichauff and James Ranges west of Alice Springs, between Palm Valley and Areyonga.

Conservation reserves where reported: Finke Gorge National Park.

Ecology and life-history

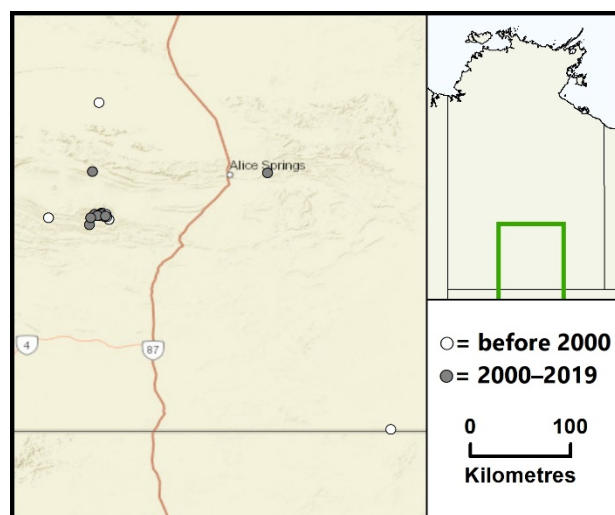
The Palm Valley Rocksnail lives in rock piles and scree among leaf litter beneath Desert Fig *Ficus brachypoda* trees.



Credit: V. Kessner

Threatening processes

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



Caption: Known localities of the Palm Valley Rocksnail in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Palm Valley Rocksnail 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. The management priority is to better safeguard known localities 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.