

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Finke Gorge rocksnail

Granulomelon arcigerens

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Finke Gorge Rocksnail is a medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 16–19 mm. The mostly pale greenish yellow shell has a flat to slightly raised spire. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993)¹.

Distribution

The Finke Gorge Rocksnail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only from the MacDonnell Ranges west of Alice Springs, in the general vicinity of Glen Helen and Hermannsburg.

Conservation reserves where reported:
Tjoritja/West MacDonnell National Park.

Ecology and life-history

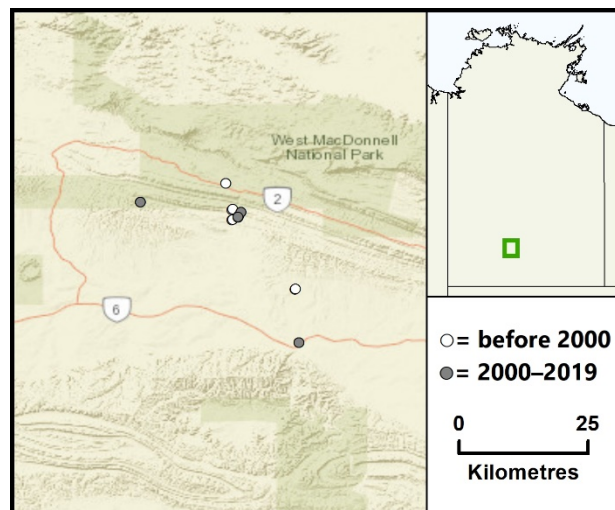
There is little published information on the ecology of the Finke Gorge Rocksnail. The species is found well above the river level and hence is unlikely to be accidentally transported by floods. This explains why it is not more widespread in the catchment. The first individuals collected were found beneath rocks.



Credit: T. Robinson & P. Hunt/South Australian Museum

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Finke Gorge Rocksnail. 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 Finke Gorge Rocksnail in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Finke Gorge Rocksnail 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 localities.

A monitoring program should be established for at least representative locations. The management priority is to better safeguard the known locations 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.

² Tate, R., 1896. Mollusca, in: Spencer, B. (Ed.), Report on the work of the Horn scientific expedition to central Australia. Part II. Zoology. Meville, Mullen and Slade, Melbourne, pp. 181–219.