

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Gillen Creek rocksnail

Granulomelon gilleni

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

The Gillen Creek Rocksnail is a medium-sized camaenid land snail, with a shell diameter of 14–17 mm. The pale greenish yellow shell is characterised by thick radial ribs and strongly and evenly elevated apex and spire. Other distinguishing characters are listed in Solem (1993)¹.

Distribution

The Gillen Creek Rocksnail is endemic to the Northern Territory (NT), where it is known only from small hills in the Strangway Ranges south of Southern Cross Bore. The area has not been thoroughly surveyed for this species due to access difficulties, but the species has not been found in the western and northern sections of the Strangway Ranges².

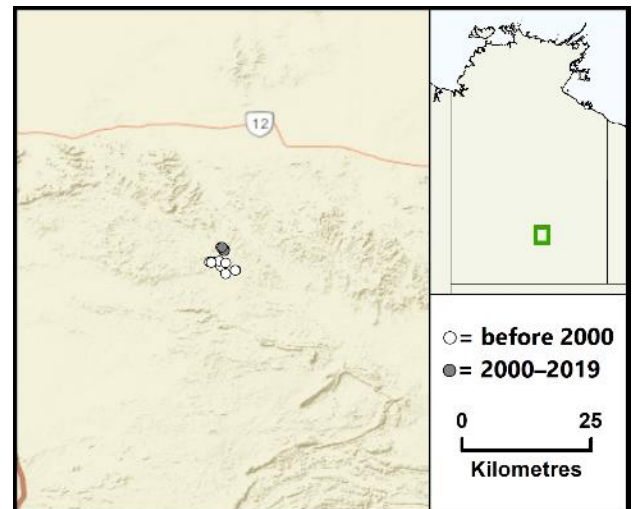
Conservation reserves where reported: None.



Credit: V. Kessner

Ecology and life-history

There is no published information on the ecology of the Gillen Creek Rocksnail, although other species in the genus are known to aestivate by sealing themselves to rock surfaces. This species is reportedly associated with mature spinifex².



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

Threatening processes

There is no direct evidence that any factors have caused a decline in the numbers or distribution of the Gillen Creek 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, especially if it is associated with or dependent upon mature spinifex. The known population occurs on pastoral lands and it is not known whether pastoral activities may affect this species.

Conservation objectives and management

There is currently no management program for the Gillen Creek 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.

The management priority is to safeguard the 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.

² V. Kessner personal communication