



Camerons Cave troglobitic community

TEC Description

The community is known from Camerons Cave on the Cape Range peninsula. It comprises a unique assemblage of species, at least 8 of which are known only from this location. The listed threatened species *Stygiochiropus peculiaris* (Camerons Cave millipede) and *Indohya damacles* (Camerons Cave pseudoscorpion) (previously *Hyella* sp. BES 1154.2525, 1546, 2554) are endemic to Camerons Cave. *Milyeringa veritas* (blind gudgeon) and *Draculoides bramstokeri* (Barrow Island drakuloides) also occur in the cave.

(photograph by Douglas Elford, WA Museum).



Distribution

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Region: Pilbara

DBCA Districts: Exmouth

Local Government Authority: Shire of Exmouth

Habitat Requirements

The single known occurrence of Camerons Cave troglobitic community occurs within Camerons Cave (karst index C-452), located on the Cape Range peninsula. The assemblage relies on particulate and dissolved sources of organic carbon for food. This food source comes in from outside the cave at the surface. The community is also reliant on the humid conditions in Camerons Cave, which are created through contact with the water table and specific surface conditions.

Indigenous Interests

The land is subject to the Gnulli native title claim (WC1997/028). An Aboriginal Sites Register is kept by the Department of Indigenous Affairs, and lists a significant site in the vicinity of the occurrence. The North West Cape Exmouth Aboriginal Corporation is represented on the North West Cape Karst Management Advisory Committee who assisted in the drafting of, and implementation of, the recovery plan for Camerons Cave.

Conservation Status

Listed as critically endangered under WA Minister Environmentally Sensitive Areas list in policy.

Threatening Processes

The main threats to the community include uncontrolled access to the cave and its surrounds, altered water levels or quality, pollution, and dumping of waste in the cave.

Recovery Plan

An interim recovery plan has been produced for the community, and outlines the recovery actions required to reduce the threats and to maintain or improve the overall condition in the known location. Recommended actions include implementing a monitoring plan and using results to guide management, to determine an appropriate buffer for the cave, to develop a hydrological model and to manage groundwater quality and levels; ensuring land use planning and development controls protect the community, and surveys for other occurrences.

Citation

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. (2020). Recovery plans and interim recovery plans <https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/plants-and-animals/threatened-species-and-communities/wa-s-threatened-ecological-communities>

Key References

Adams, M. and Humphreys, W.F. (1993). Patterns of genetic diversity within selected subterranean fauna of the Cape Range peninsula, Western Australia: systematic and biogeographic implications. Records of the Western Australian Museum, Supplement 45: 145-164.

Department of Environment and Conservation (2012). Camerons Cave Troglotic Community, Camerons Cave Millipede and Camerons Cave Pseudoscorpion Interim Recovery Plan 2012-2017. Interim Recovery Plan No. 324. Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia.

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