

Lord Howe Island Earthworm (*Pericryptodrilus nanus*)**Description**

A small earthworm between 25 – 32mm in length made up of 111 – 123 segments.

Conservation Significance

Endemic species.

Listed as Endangered under the NSW TSC Act 1995.

Distribution

Restricted to the northern ridge to Mount Gower.

Ecology

Lives in deep leaf litter in moist environments close to streams.

Population data/health

The species is known from ten specimens, lodged in the Australian museum. Sampling at many other sites at Lord Howe specifically for earthworms has failed to extend the range beyond the northern ridge of Mount Gower.

Habitat

Requires constant moist environment, usually in shaded locations in leaf litter.

Threats

Disturbance to leaf litter, in particular trampling, resulting in changes to its micro environment.

Exotic earthworms have displaced native earthworms in many areas in Australia. Exotic species are already on Lord Howe Island around the settlement area which could have deleterious impacts if they spread.

Rodents may impact on this species.

Impact on other species

Unknown.

References

NSW Scientific Committee 2000. Preliminary Determination of *Pericryptodrilus nanus* as an endangered species.