



Red Triangle Slugs

What is this weird looking slug?

Well it is called not surprisingly called the red triangle slug or scientific-ly *Triboniophorous graeffei*.



The Red-triangle Slug (*Triboniophorous graeffei*, length 70mm) is common in the region of south-eastern Queensland and increasingly on the Darling Downs. This species which lives in coastal forests from around Wollongong NSW north to Mossman in northern Qld has many colour forms. The most common colour form is a creamy white animal with a prominent red triangular mantle shield.

However, various colour forms exist including all-red and all-yellow animals, both of which occur at Mount Cordeaux near Brisbane. It is likely that future molecular studies may reveal that some of these colour forms are actually distinct species. This lichen-eating slug leaves feeding tracks (lines of small arc-shaped markings) which can often be seen on smooth barked eucalypts. The also feed on microscopic soil algae in your garden and are also said to be good for removing mould from exposed surfaces.

Do you they cause harm in the garden?

No—they are entirely harmless and should be encouraged as an interesting and local native animal that belongs here!

