**Velesunio angasi** (Sowerby, 1867)

**Diagnostic features**
The shell is compressed, relatively elongate, the posterior expanded, usually winged; ventral margin usually straight, rarely convex or slightly sinuate; shell length up to 90 mm; width/length ratio greater than 55%. The siphons are brick red with dark blotches (cf. *V. wilsoni*). Anterior adductor scar weakly impressed and the hinge teeth are smooth.

**Classification**

**Velesunio angasi** (Sowerby, 1867)

**Common name**: Freshwater mussel

**Class**: Bivalvia

**Subclass**: Heteroconchia

**Superorder**: Palaeoheterodonta

**Superfamily**: Hyrioidea

**Family**: Hyriidae

**Subfamily**: Velesunioninae

**Genus**: *Velesunio* Iredale, 1934


**Type locality**: Shangway’s River, Northern Territory.

**Synonyms**: *Unio bednalli* Tate, 1882; *Hyridella (Hyridella) bardweli* Clench, 1934; *Aparcthyria hemesa* Iredale, 1943; *Aparcthyria inspecta* Iredale, 1943; *Quaesithyria fleckeri* Iredale, 1943.

**State of taxonomy**
The last major taxonomic revision of Australian freshwater mussels was by McMichael and Hiscock (1958).

Based on the available molecular results, Walker et al. (2014) pointed out that a re-assessment of Australian hyriids is needed.
Biology and ecology
Shallow burrower in silty sand/mud in streams, billabongs and slow-flowing rivers. Suspension feeder. Reproduction occurs throughout the year. Larvae (glochidia) are brooded in the gills of females and, when released, become parasitic on the gills of fish (see Humphrey and Simpson 1985 for list of species) before dropping to the sediment as young mussels. Able to tolerate low oxygen concentrations and long periods out of water. Recruitment is affected by levels of dissolved oxygen (Humphrey & Simpson 1985). These mussels from 11-35 years and life span is correlated with dissolved oxygen concentrations.

Additional information on the biology and ecology of members of this family can be found in Fauna of Australia, vol. 5A, p. 296-298.

Distribution
This species is widely distributed, occurring from north-eastern Queensland throughout tropical northern Australia, and extending south to the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

Further reading


To contact the authors for comment or suggestions email: fwmollusc@gmail.com
(mailto:fwmollusc@gmail.com)

Australian Museum
(http://australianmuseum.net.au/)

Australian Biological Resources Study

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
(http://www.agriculture.gov.au/)

Bushblitz
(http://bushblitz.org.au/)