

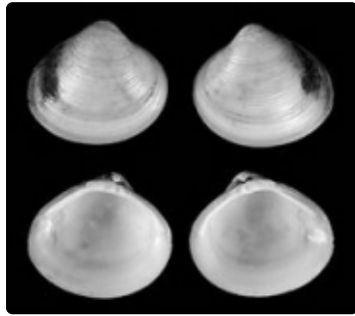


Corbicula australis (Deshayes, 1830)

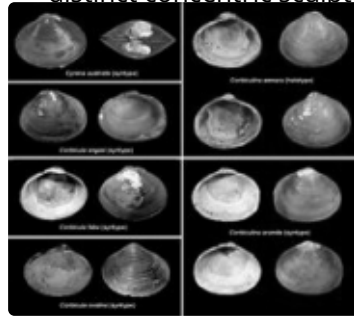
Diagnostic features

This species differs from the invasive *C. fluminea* in its thinner, often more oval shell with finer concentric sculpture.

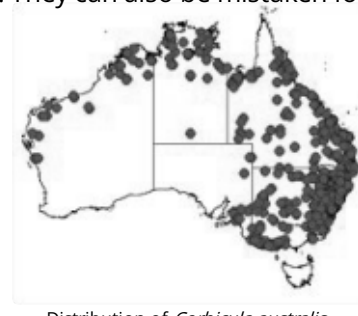
Juveniles of this species are sometimes mistaken for members of the Sphaeriidae but differ in having a more solid shell that has distinct concentric sculpture. They can also be mistaken for



Corbicula australis (adult size up to 33 mm)
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Various forms and synonyms of *Corbicula australis*.
(C:/tmp/Mollucs/Images/corbicula_australis/corbicula_australis_plate_copy.jpg)



Distribution of *Corbicula australis*.
(C:/tmp/Mollucs/Images/corbicula_australis/corbicula_australis_revised.jpg)

young hyriids, but again the closely-spaced concentric ridges are distinctive, as is the more oval shape and heterodont hinge.

Classification

Corbicula australis (Deshayes, 1830)

Common name: Australian Corbicula, Little Mussel.

Class Bivalvia

Subclass Heteroconchia

Superorder Heterodonta

Order Cardiida

Superfamily Cyrenoidea

Family Cyrenidae

Genus *Corbicula* Mühlfeldt, 1811.

Original name: *Cyrena australis* Deshayes, 1830. Deshayes, G. P. 1830. *Encyclopédie Méthodique. Histoire naturelle des vers*. Paris : Agasse Vol. 2 pp. 1-136 [50].

Type locality: Nepean River, New South Wales

Synonyms: *Cyclas nepeanensis* Lesson, 1831; *Cyrena debilis* Gould, 1850; *Corbicula ovalina* Deshayes, 1855; *Corbicula minor* Prime, 1861; *Corbicula angasi* Prime, 1864; *Corbicula rivina* Clessin, 1877; *Corbicula sublaevigata* Smith, 1882; *Corbicula deshayesii* Smith, 1882; *Corbicula desolata* Tate, 1887; *Corbicula faba* Bullen, 1904; *Corbiculina permerna* Iredale, 1943; *Corbiculina esculenta* Iredale, 1943; *Corbiculina mussoni* Iredale, 1943; *Corbiculina subovalina* Iredale, 1943; *Corbiculina aramita* Iredale, 1943; *Corbiculina semara* Iredale, 1943; *Corbiculina finkeana* Iredale, 1943

State of taxonomy

This taxon is widely distributed in the Australian continent. Given the considerable variability and geographic spread it is possible that cryptic species may eventually be identified.

Previously referred to the genus *Corbiculina* which is now regarded as a synonym of *Corbicula*.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in sand and gravel in rivers. Sometimes a pest because it can clog irrigation pipes. The biology of this species has been studied (Tham, 1971) and like other corbiculids it is a suspension feeder and the larvae are brooded.

Additional information on the biology and ecology of members of this family can be found in Fauna of Australia, vol. 5A, p. 355.

Distribution

In river systems throughout mainland Australia. Although the southwest corner does not have any collection records on our map, a few specimens from that area have been seen.

Further reading

Beesley, P. L., Ross, G. J. B. & Wells, A., Eds. (1998). *Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis. Parts A & B*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing.

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Iredale, T. (1943a). A basic list of the fresh water Mollusca of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 10: 188-230.

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Lamprell, K. & Healy, J. (1998). *Bivalves of Australia, volume 2*. Leiden, Backhuys Publishers.

Tham, S. Y. (1971). Reproduction in *Corbiculina angasi* Prime (Mollusca: Bivalvia). BSc(Hons) thesis, Department of Zoology, Monash University, Victoria.

Woolford, T. (1984). A fouling bivalve, *Corbiculina australis* (Deshayes, 1830), in the Renmark irrigation pipelines: its biology and control options for the Renmark Irrigation Trust. Unpublished Honours Thesis. Zoology Department, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia.

Notes

As listed above, there are several names that are regarded as synonyms of this species by Smith (1992). However, no in-depth revision of this group has been undertaken.

The Asian species, *Corbicula fluminea*, can be distinguished from *C. australis* in having a rather more triangular shape than most populations of *C. australis*. Also *Corbicula fluminea*, can be distinguished from *C. australis* in having coarser and more widely spaced concentric ribbing.

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