*Sinotaia guangdungensis* (Kobelt, 1906)

Diagnostic features
This taxon differs from all the Australian viviparid species in having heavy spiral ridges on the shell. It is unlike any other freshwater snail found in Australia.

Classification

*Sinotaia guangdungensis* (Kobelt, 1906)

Common name: Chinese River Snail

Class Gastropoda

Subclass Caenogastropoda

Superfamily: Viviparoidea

Subfamily: Bellamyinae

*Genus Sinotaia* Haas, 1939 (Type species: *Paludina quadrata* Benson, 1842; Chusan, (Zhoushan) China)


Type locality: Canton, (Guangzhou) Guangdong Province, China.

Biology and ecology

Under logs, rocks etc. in river. Although the biology of this taxon has not been studied, its anatomy shows that it is a suspension feeder, using the gill for filtering food from the water as in other viviparids, and that it broods its eggs in the pallial oviduct.

Distribution

Introduced from southern China by way of the aquarium trade and is (was?) established in the freshwater part of the Lane Cove River, Sydney, New South Wales (Shea 1994). There is, to date, no evidence of it having spread beyond that locality.

Further reading
Notes

Previously referred to the African genus *Bellamya*.

Species of this genus are used for animal and human food in parts of Asia.

A related Asian species, *Sinotaia quadrata* (Benson, 1842), has been intercepted by Australian Biosecurity. It differs from the present species in lacking strong spiral ridges.

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