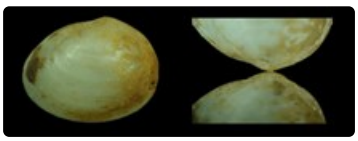
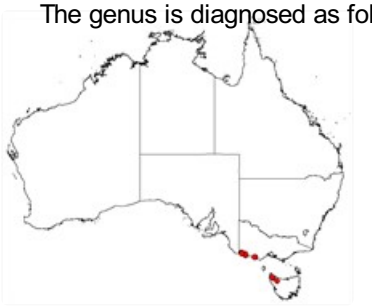
Afropisidium aslini Kuiper, 1983



Afropisidium aslini (adult size up to 2.5 mm)

Diagnostic features

The genus is diagnosed as follows: Shell small, oval. Surface finely striated, sculpture more pronounced around umbo. Hinge plate narrow, cardinal teeth straight. Ligament external, elevated over dorsal margin. Only one (exhalant) siphon present; inhalant opening merged with pedal slit due to loss of presiphonal suture; ventral pair of siphonal retractors well developed, placed at posterior end of pedal slit. Outer demibranch absent. Brood pouch localised dorsally, formed by 7-20 filaments (depending on size). Lateral loop of nephridium clearly visible from dorsal side.



Distribution of *Afropisidium aslini*.

Glenelg River at Dartmore, a locality where *A. aslini* occurs. Photo C. Lydeard.

The species differs from *Euglesia* in having an exterior ligament exterior, an elongate, moderately convex shell which is sculptured with fine, dense striations. The shell reaches 2.5 mm in length.

Classification

Afropisidium aslini (Kuiper, 1983)

Common name: Pea shell, pea clam, pill clam

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Heterodonta

Megaorder Neoheterodontei

Order Sphaeriida

Superfamily Sphaerioidea

Family Sphaeriidae

Genus Afropisidium Kuiper,1962 (Type species: *Pisidium lepus* Kuiper, 1957 = *Pisidium pirothi* Jickeli, 1881).

Original name: *Pisidium aslini* Kuiper,1983. *In* Kuiper, J. G. J. (1983). The Sphaeriidae of Australia. *Basteria* 47: 3-52.

Type locality: Left bank at junction of Moleside Creek, Glenelg River, Victoria.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower, suspension and deposit feeder. Inhabits creeks, is often associated with *Euglesa tasmanica* (Korniushin, 2000). Broods young.

Distribution

Western Victoria and northern Tasmania.

Notes

This genus was considered to be a subgenus of *Pisidium* by earlier workers and was treated as such in earlier versions of this key. Molecular studies (e.g. Lee and Ó Foighil, 2003) have shown that it is a distinct genus.

Further reading

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