

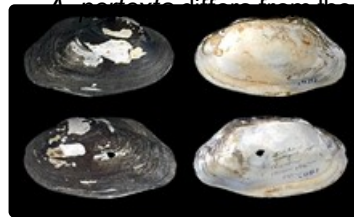


Alathyria pertexta wardi Iredale, 1943

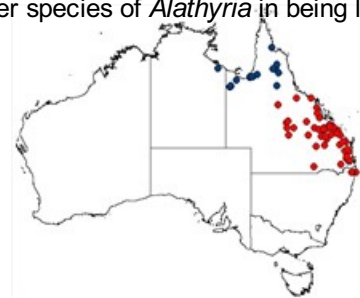
Diagnostic features



Alathyria pertexta wardi (adult size up to 135 mm)



Alathyria pertexta wardi (Lectotype)



Distribution of *Alathyria pertexta pertexta* (red) and *A. pertexta wardi* (blue).

elongate (height/length ratio less than 56%). Two subspecies are recognised, with the shell of *A. pertexta wardi* differing from *A. pertexta pertexta* in its truncate posterior, a generally weaker hinge, a marked posterior ventral sinuation, and in its slight anterior dorsal excavation. Another subspecies, *A. pertexta magnifica*, occurs in Papua.

Classification

Alathyria pertexta wardi Iredale, 1943

Common name: Ward's freshwater mussel

Class: Bivalvia

Infraclass: Heteroconchia

Cohort: Palaeoheterodonta

Order: Unionida

Superfamily: Unionoidea

Family Hyriidae

Subfamily Velesunioninae

Genus *Alathyria* Iredale, 1934

Original name: Quaesithyria wardi Iredale, 1943. In Iredale, T. (1934). The freshwater mussels of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 8: 57-78.

Type locality: Einasleigh River, Queensland.

State of taxonomy

The last major taxonomic revision of Australian freshwater mussels was conducted by McMichael & Hiscock (1958). Based on recent molecular results, Walker et al. (2014) suggested that a reassessment of Australian hyriids is needed.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in sand or gravel. Suspension feeder. Although the life cycle of this taxon has not been reported, larvae (glochidia) are likely brooded in marsupia in the gills of females and, when released, become parasitic on fish gills or fins where they presumably undergo metamorphosis before dropping to the sediment as free-living juvenile mussels.

Distribution

Cape York and Gulf of Carpentaria rivers and streams, Queensland.

Another subspecies, *Alathyria pertexta magnifica* McMichael & Hiscock, 1958, occurs in Papua.

Further reading

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Walker, K. F., Byrne, M., Hickey, C. W. & Roper, D. S. (2001). Freshwater Mussels (Hyriidae) of Australasia. Pp. 5-31 in G. Bauer & Wächtler, K. *Ecology and Evolution of the Freshwater Mussels Unionoida*. *Ecological Studies*. Berlin, Springer-Verlag.

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https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/freshwater_molluscs/

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