



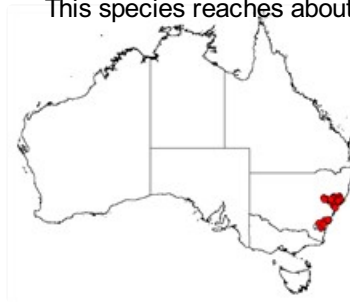
Alathyria profuga (Gould, 1850)

Diagnostic features

This species reaches about 120 mm in length and is



Alathyria profuga (length to about 120 mm)



Distribution of *Alathyria profuga*.

distinguished from other *Alathyria* species in its rounded, winged shell with a height/length ratio of 55-60%.

Classification

Alathyria profuga (Gould, 1850)

Common name: Freshwater mussel

Class: Bivalvia

Infraclass: Heteroconchia

Cohort: Palaeoheterodonta

Order: Unionida

Superfamily: Unionoidea

Family: Hyriidae

Subfamily: Velesunioninae

Genus *Alathyria* Iredale, 1934

Original name: *Unio profugus* Gould, 1850. Gould, A. (1850). In Proceedings for May 18th, 1850. *Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History* 3: 292-296.

Type locality: Hunter (as Hunter's) River, New South Wales.

Synonym: *Alathyria vadena* Iredale, 1943.

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/mud in permanent flowing rivers where it prefers moderately strong currents. Suspension feeder.

Larvae (glochidia) are brooded in marsupia in the female's gills and, when released and become parasitic on fish gills and/or fins where they undergo metamorphosis before dropping to the sediment as free-living juvenile mussels. A range of fish species act as hosts (H. Jones, pers. comm.).

This species lives on average for about 25-35 years (Herath et al. 2018).

Distribution

Shoalhaven, Hunter, Karuah and Manning River systems, New South Wales.

Notes

Further reading

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