



Amerianna compar Iredale, 1943

Disclaimer

This genus is in need of revision, and the specimens that we have



Amerianna compar (adult size up to 8.5 mm). This specimen was figured by Sowerby (1874) as *Physa carinata*.



Amerianna compar Holotype of *Physa truncata*.



Amerianna compar. Dam 5 km N of Delamere H/S on Top Springs road, 37 km S. of Victoria Hwy. Photo: V. Kessner.



Amerianna compar. Small billabong, Fitzroy River, SW Kimberley, Western Australia. Photo: V. Kessner.



Holotype of *Physa obesa*



Distribution of *Amerianna compar*.



Typical habitat of *Amerianna* spp., Kakadu NP, Northern Territory. Photo J. Ponder.

used have not been rigorously tested. This situation can only be resolved by additional molecular and morphological studies involving comprehensive sampling.

Diagnostic features

This rather small, variable species usually has a flat-topped spire and the last whorl is offset from the plane of the other whorls. Sometimes the spire is raised showing sharply stepped whorls as in two of the figured specimens. The periphery is sharply angled, usually with a weak to moderate carina, as in the larger *A. carinata*, and as in that species, there is usually a weak to moderate concave area just below the carina and the shell surface has weak spiral striae.

Classification

Amerianna compar Iredale, 1943

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Heterobranchia

Megaorder Hygrophila

Order Lymnaeida

Superfamily Planorboidea

Family Planorbidae

Subfamily: Miratestinae

Genus *Amerianna* Strand, 1928

Original name: *Amerianna compar* Iredale, 1943. In Iredale, T. (1943). A basic list of the freshwater Mollusca of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 10: 188-230.

Type locality: Lennard River, north Western Australia.

Synonym: *Physa (Ameria) truncata* H. Adams, 1861 (non Bourguignat, 1856); *Physa (Ameria) obesa* H. Adams, 1861, non De Kay, 1843); *Amerianna obesula* Iredale, 1943, new name for *Physa obesa* H. Adams..

Note: The type specimen of *A. compar* is lost but Iredale noted that it was "similar in shape to the Burdekin River shells, but differ in the flattened spire, which shows distinct concentric spiral striae". The reference to the Burdekin River shells relates to Sowerby's (1874) figure of *Physa truncata* which shows an almost flat spire like the type specimen of *Physa carinata* figured here. The specimen figured by Sowerby (1874, pl. 3, fig 18) as *Physa carinata* is a more typical form of *A. compar* and is figured here.

State of taxonomy

The species of *Amerianna* require taxonomic revision - the classification presented here is modified but is based on shells alone.

Biology and ecology

On water weeds, wood, and similar substrates, in ponds and billabongs. Feeds on algae and detritus. Egg mass a jelly strip containing many small eggs. Development direct.

Distribution

This species occurs from the Indian Ocean Division, northern Western Australia, across the coastal tropical north of Northern Territory and Queensland, to north-eastern New South Wales.

Further reading

Baker, F. C. (1945). *The molluscan family Planorbidae*. Urbana USA, University of Illinois Press.

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

Hubendick, B. (1955). Phylogeny of the Planorbidae. *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* 28: 453-542.

Walker, J. C. (1988). Classification of Australian buliniform planorbids (Mollusca: Pulmonata). *Records of the Australian Museum* 40: 61-89.

Willan, E. C. & Kessner, V. (2021). A conspectus of the freshwater molluscs of the Daly River catchment, Northern Territory. *Northern Territory Naturalist* 30: 108-137.

To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

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

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