



Ascorhis tasmanica (Martens, 1858)

Diagnostic features

The shell is very variable in shape and sculpture, some being smooth,



Ascorhis tasmanica (adult size 2-3.1 mm)



Ascorhis tasmanica - keeled form



Distribution of *Ascorhis* spp.

others having distinct spiral ridges. The shell can be monocoloured (brown or yellowish) or spirally banded. The aperture is unthickened and simple. Shells often have the large egg capsules attached, coated with white sand grains. Living females are also distinctive in having a lateral pouch on either side of the snout. The operculum is simple, without white smear or pegs on the inner side.

Classification

Ascorhis tasmanica (Martens, 1858)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Ascorhis* Ponder & Clark, 1988

Original name: Hydrobia tasmanica Martens, 1858. In Martens, E.C. von (1858). Ueber einige Brakwasserbewohner aus den Umgebungen Venedigs *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* 24: 152 - 208.

Type locality: Tasmania (probably near Launceston).

Synonyms: *Bythnia victoriae* Tenison Woods, 1878; *Hydrobia turbinata* Petterd, 1889; *Assimineia pagodella* Hedley, 1902; *Rissoa procincta* Hedley, 1908; *Potamopyrgus ruppiæ* Hedley, 1912; *Webbinella bassensis* Parr, 1945.

Biology and ecology

This very small species lives on aquatic vegetation in the upper parts of estuaries and in coastal lagoons, and it is commonly abundant. It feeds by scraping bacteria and microalgae. The solitary hemispherical, sand-encrusted capsules contain a single egg, and are laid on virtually all substrata, including being frequently attached to the shell of *Ascorhis* and other co-occurring molluscs. Development is direct.

Distribution

From mid-Queensland through south-eastern Australia and into South Australia and Tasmania.

Notes

This species was long known as *Hydrobia buccinoides* but this name was changed to *Ascorhis victoriae* by Ponder & Clark (1988). However, the currently used name was later found to be an earlier name for this species (Ponder, 1997).

A closely related species (*A. occidua* Ponder & Clark, 1988) is found in south Western Australia.

Further reading

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

Ponder, W. F. (1997). Nomenclatural rectifications in Australian Hydrobiidae. *Molluscan Research* 18: 67-68.

Ponder, W. F. & Clark, G. A. (1988). A morphological and electrophoretic examination of *Hydrobia buccinoides*, a variable brackish-water gastropod from temperate Australia (Mollusca: Hydrobiidae). *Australian Journal of Zoology* 36: 661-689.

Ponder, W. F., Clark, S. A. & Dallwitz, M. J. (2000). *Freshwater and estuarine molluscs: an interactive, illustrated key for New South Wales*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing.

Robinson, K. & Gibbs, P. (1982). *A field guide to the common shelled molluscs of New South Wales estuaries*. Sydney, Coast and Wetlands Society (as *Hydrobia buccinoides*).

Smith, B. J. & Kershaw, R. C. (1979). *Field guide to the non-marine Molluscs of South-eastern Australia*. Canberra, A.N.U. Press (as *Hydrobia buccinoides*).

Smith, B. J. & Kershaw, R. C. (1981). *Tasmanian Land and Freshwater Molluscs*. Hobart, University of Tasmania (as *Hydrobia buccinoides*).

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

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