



## *Austroassiminea lethae* Solem, Girardi, Slack-Smith & Kendrick, 1982



*Austroassiminea lethae* (adult size 3.9-4.8 mm)



*Austroassiminea lethae*



Distribution of *Austroassiminea lethae*.

### Diagnostic features

Shells of this monotypic genus are small, globose to conical, thin, and bright reddish-orange to pale brown. The whorls are weakly convex and sculptured with fine but distinct axial riblets and irregular microscopic spiral threads. The outer lip of the rounded aperture is prosocline, and the columellar lip is thick and gently curved; there is a narrow, open umbilicus.

The operculum is semicircular and paucispiral, thin, horny, yellowish, transparent. The cephalic tentacles are moderately long, with the eyes in lateral bulges at their outer bases. The snout is simple, rather long, and bilobed distally. The foot is large, wide, and rounded anteriorly and posteriorly.

### Classification

*Austroassiminea lethae* Solem, Girardi, Slack-Smith & Kendrick, 1982

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Assimineidae

Subfamily Omphalotropidinae

Genus *Austroassiminea* Solem, Girardi, Slack-Smith & Kendrick, 1982 (Type species *Austroassiminea lethae* Solem, Girardi, Slack-Smith & Kendrick, 1982).

*Original name:* *Austroassiminea lethae* Solem, Girardi, Slack-Smith & Kendrick, 1982. In Solem, A., Girardi, E. L., Slack-Smith, S. and Kendrick, G. W. 1982. *Austroassiminea lethae* gen. nov. a rare and endangered prosobranch snail from south-western Australia (Mollusca; Prosobranchia; Assimineidae) *Journal of the Royal Society of Western Australia* 65: 119-129.

*Type locality:* Cosy Corner, Hamelin Bay, near Augusta, Western Australia.

## Biology and ecology

This monotypic genus is found in natural freshwater seepages and springs emerging from limestone or lime sands in coastal areas.

## Distribution

South-western Australia. Restricted to a few isolated localities between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste.

## Notes

Each of the three known living populations is small and in danger of destruction from agricultural or other human activity. These threats include weed invasion, sedimentation, erosion, salinity, and loss of riparian vegetation. Due to their reliance on rain-fed springs and limited aestivation ability, these snails are also severely impacted by recent and predicted reduced rainfall in southwestern Australia.

## Further reading

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