



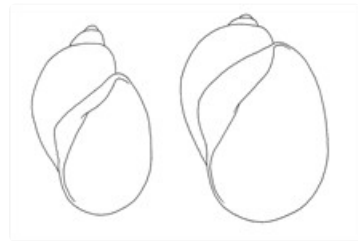
***Austropeplea (Austropeplea) brazieri*
(E. A. Smith, 1882)**



Austropeplea (Austropeplea) brazieri (size to about 10 mm).



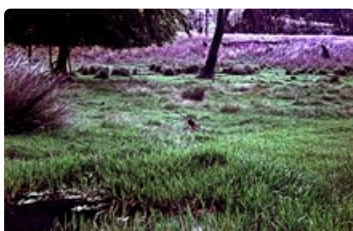
Austropeplea (Austropeplea) brazieri (spm from Victoria)



Shell variation in *Austropeplea (Austropeplea) brazieri*.



Distribution of *Austropeplea (Austropeplea) brazieri*.



Swampy pasture, ideal habitat for *A. brazieri*.
Bundara, near Inverell. Photo: J. Walker.

Disclaimer

This genus is in need of revision, and the species concepts we have used have not been rigorously tested. There are few morphological characters that allow separation between species and they are difficult to separate based on shell characters alone. This situation needs to be resolved by additional molecular and morphological studies, involving comprehensive sampling.

Diagnostic features

This species tends to have a smaller aperture than *A. subaquatilis* and some individuals of *A. huonensis*, as well as a less reflected mantle and generally shouldered whorls and a narrower parietal area compared to the other species. It also tends to be darker brown in colour.

Classification

Austropeplea (***Austropeplea***) *brazieri* (E. A. Smith, 1882)

Common name: New South Wales fluke pond snail

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Heterobranchia

Megaorder Hygrophila

Order Lymnaeida

Superfamily Lymnoidea

Family Lymnaeidae

Genus *Austropeplea* Cotton, 1942

Subgenus *Austropeplea* Cotton, 1942

Original name: *Limnaea brazieri* E. A. Smith, 1882. In Smith, E. A. (1882). On the freshwater shells of Australia. *Journal of the Linnean Society London, Zoology* 16: 255-316.

Type locality: Glebe Pt, Sydney, NSW.

Synonyms: *Limnaea venustula* Cherry, 1896 (nom. nud.); *Glacilimnaea gelida* Iredale, 1943; *Simlimnea morbida* Iredale, 1944; *Simlimnea aegrifer* Iredale, 1944.

State of taxonomy

Until recently, a large number of available names for these Australian lymnaeids (e.g., Iredale 1943, 1944) were lumped as *Austropeplea tomentosa* (e.g., Boray & McMichael, 1961), a name based on a New Zealand species. Recent studies have shown that *A. tomentosa* is very different from the Australian taxa (Puslednik et al. 2009). However, unlike Puslednik *et al.* (2009), we tentatively recognise three species in SE Australia, based on differences in anatomy and molecules.

This genus is in need of revision and the species concepts we have used have not been rigorously tested. There are no clear-cut shell characters that allow separation. The current situation is clearly far from satisfactory and can only be resolved by additional molecular and morphological studies involving dense sampling.

Biology and ecology

This common species is found amongst water vegetation in dams, ponds, billabongs, rivers, streams, water-logged pasture, springs, swamps, and similar habitats. It is semi-amphibious - commonly found out of the water along the banks on damp mud. It feeds on algae and detritus. Its egg mass is a crescent-shaped jelly strip containing many small eggs. Development is direct.

Distribution

New South Wales, ACT, Victoria and southern Queensland.

Notes

This native lymnaeid species is gradually being replaced by the introduced Asian and American lymnaeids *Orientogalba viridis* and *Pseudosuccinea columella*. This species is a vector of sheep liver fluke parasite.

Further reading

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

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