



***Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942**

Diagnostic features

The shell is 1–5 mm in length, conical, elongate conical or pupiform, with evenly convex (one species with angulation) to flattened whorls, smooth.

Operculum flat, paucispiral, yellowish, with a white smear and 16 (typically 3–4) pegs on the inner surface. Radula with 3–5 (typically 4) pairs of basal cusps on the central teeth. The penis is simple and tapering, and the prostate gland closed and somewhat kidney-shaped, with the pallial vas deferens emerging from middle of ventral side. The coiled oviduct ranges from a simple inverted U-shape to exhibiting several bends, loops or twists, and the pallial oviduct has a terminal to subterminal opening.

Austropyrgus is similar to the tateid genus *Fluvidona*, although *Fluvidona* differs from *Austropyrgus* in a number of characters including the pupiform shell with a slightly reflected outer lip (*Austropyrgus* is typically conical with no lip reflection), in its red operculum (yellow in *Austropyrgus*), in lacking a gastric caecum (present in *Austropyrgus*) and in the oviduct joining the bursal duct dorsally rather than ventrally or ventro-laterally.

Classification

***Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942**

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Type species: *Paludina nigra* Quoy & Gaimard, 1834 (= *Austropyrgus niger* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1834))

Original reference: Cotton, B.C. (1942). Australian Gastropoda of the families Hydrobiidae, Assimineidae and Acmeidae. *Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia* 66: 124–129.

Type locality: Small stream flowing into the d'Entrecasteaux Channel, Tasmania. **Neotype locality:** Bacons Creek, WSW. of Gordon, d'Entrecasteaux Channel, Tasmania, 43°16.70'S 147°11.50'E

Synonyms: *Angrobia* Iredale, 1943; *Rivisessor*, Iredale, 1943 (nom. nud. fide Köhler & Bouchet, 2020); *Pupiphryx*, Iredale, 1943; *Revisessor* Cotton, 1943 (see Köhler & Bouchet 2020).

State of taxonomy

We follow Clark et al. (2003).

Biology and ecology

Members of the genus can be found on all substrata but are most often found amongst leaves, weeds and roots and on and under stones and wood. A few taxa crawl on sediment in the open, such as those from various small springs in Victoria and Tasmania.

All species of *Austropyrgus* appear to lay solitary egg capsules that contain a single egg and development is direct.

Distribution

Distributed throughout south-eastern Australia, with outliers in the Bunya Mountains, southern Queensland (Miller *et al.*, 1999) and Dalhousie Springs (Ponder *et al.*, 1996), northern South Australia.

Notes

Austropyrgus is the most speciose genus of all the Australian freshwater molluscs. Many species have very restricted geographical ranges.

Further reading

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

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