



## ***Austropyrgus bullerensis* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003**



*Austropyrgus bullerensis* (adult size 2.2-2.5 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus bullerensis*.

### **Diagnostic features**

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus cooma* group, whose members are characterised by generally pupiform to conical, small to medium-sized shells, where the last whorl and base are evenly convex. *A. bullerensis* differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell with straight to weakly convex spire outline and slightly convex whorls; rectum of short S-shape; distal and medial penis pigmented; oviduct bent just before bursal duct joins, and coiled oviduct and bursal duct join just in front of posterior pallial wall.

### **Classification**

*Austropyrgus bullerensis* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Austropyrgus bullerensis* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003. In Clark, S. A., Miller, A. C. & Ponder, W. F. (2003). Revision of the snail genus *Austropyrgus* (Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae): A morphostatic radiation of freshwater gastropods in southeastern Australia. *Records of the Australian Museum* Supplement 28: 1–109.

*Type locality:* Tributary of Delatite River, at Mt Buller Road, Victoria.

## Biology and ecology

In streams on water weeds, hard substrata (rocks etc.) and crawling on litter and sediment. Can be locally abundant. Assumed to feed by scraping bacteria and microalgae. Lay solitary capsules containing a single egg. Direct development.

## Distribution

This species is currently known from a single small stream near the base of Mt Buller, eastern Victoria.

## Notes

Most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, but this one has a reasonable range. No other species of *Austropyrgus* is recognised in a radius of at least 80 km around the Mt Buller area of central Victoria. The species of closest geographical proximity are *A. macedonensis* from Mt. Macedon area, central Victoria, about 150 km to the west, and *A. cooma* from the Cooma area, southern New South Wales, about 250 km to the east.

The most similar species in Victoria are *A. daylesfordensis*, *A. macedonensis*, *A. grampianensis*, *A. colensis* and *A. otwayensis*.

## Further reading

Clark, S. A., Miller, A. C. & Ponder, W. F. (2003). Revision of the snail genus *Austropyrgus* (Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae): a morphostatic radiation of freshwater gastropods in southeastern Australia. *Records of the Australian Museum* 28: 1–109.

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