

Austropyrgus bungoniensis Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003





Austropyrgus bungoniensis (adult size 1.8-2.6 mm)

Diagnostic features

This is one of several species of *Austropyrgus* found in the southern half of New South Wales. They are all very similar, only separated by small differences in size and shape of the shells and in anatomical details. They have elongate-conic shells, where adults possess a slightly thickened aperture, and the operculum bears several pegs. Most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges. This species is found in Bungonia Gorge.

Classification

Austropyrgus bungoniensis Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus Austropyrgus Cotton, 1942

Original name: Austropyrgus bungoniensis 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: Bungonia Gorge Base, NSW.

Biology and ecology

In seepages, streams and the main river 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

Known only from the small streams in Bungonia Gorge, New South Wales.

Notes

Most species of Austropyrgus are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, and this one is no exception.

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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