



Austropyrgus conicus Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003



Austropyrgus conicus (adult size 1.6-2 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus conicus*.

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. conicus* differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with straight to weakly convex spire outline, convex whorls; central teeth with 2 pairs of basal cusps; pallial vas deferens strongly undulating at prostate gland; penis not pigmented.

This species can be found in sympatry with up to seven species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. lochi*, *A. juliae*, *A. stevensmithi*, *A. smithii*, *A. mersus*, *A. rectoides* and *A. procerus*) throughout its currently recognised range, although in any one locality the number of taxa does not exceed three. The shell of this species is most similar to *A. smithii*, but it is larger and broader than the latter.

Classification

Austropyrgus conicus Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: *Austropyrgus conicus* 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: Chester Creek, tributary of Arthur River, Tasmania.

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 found in streams and rivers in the northwest corner of Tasmania.

Notes

While most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, this one has a reasonably wide range in the north-western part of Tasmania where it is sympatric with several other species of *Austropyrgus* (see Diagnostic features).

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

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