



## *Austropyrgus dyerianus* (Petterd, 1879)

### Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus sparsus* group, whose



*Austropyrgus dyerianus* (adult size 2.2-2.9 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus dyerianus*.

members are characterised by the following shell features: small to medium-sized shells, conical, with convex to slightly convex whorls. In females, the coiled oviduct is of an inverted U-shape or with two or more bends, loops or twists.

*Austropyrgus dyerianus* differs from the other species of this group in the following combination of characters: shell small, spire outline straight, whorls convex; pigmentation present on only medial section of penis; seminal receptacle at anterior edge of bursa copulatrix; anterior end of capsule gland tapering.

### Classification

*Austropyrgus dyerianus* (Petterd, 1879)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Bithynia dyeriana* Petterd, 1879. In Petterd, W. F. (1879). List of the freshwater shells of Tasmania. *Journal of Conchology* 2: 81–88.

*Type locality:* Stream flowing into Long Bay, Tasman Peninsula, 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 currently known from a few small streams on the Tasman Peninsula, south-eastern Tasmania.

## Notes

Most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, and this one has a rather small range.

## 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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