



Austropyrgus fonscultus Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003



Austropyrgus fonscultus (adult size 1.5-2.2 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus fonscultus*.



Ewens Ponds, a sinkhole south of Mt Gambier, where both *Austropyrgus latus* and *A. fonscultus* occur. Photo C. Lydeard.

Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus sparsus* group, whose 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 fonscultus differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with slightly convex whorls and straight spire outline, inner lip of aperture firmly adhering to parietal wall; seminal vesicle slightly undulating over stomach; $\frac{1}{4}$ or less to about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the albumen gland in front of posterior pallial wall.

This species has been found in sympatry with one species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. latus*) throughout its currently recognised range. It is distinguished from *A. latus* by its much smaller size and convex whorls.

Classification

Austropyrgus fonscultus Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: *Austropyrgus fonscultus* 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: Small springs on property of B.S. Milstead, north of Umpherstone Bay, South Australia.

Biology and ecology

In streams and springs 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 the small streams and large springs associated with the limestone sinkholes distributed in south-eastern corner of South Australia.

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

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