



***Austropyrgus gippslandicus* (Ponder, Colgan, Clark, Miller & Terzis, 1994)**



Austropyrgus gippslandicus (adult size 1.8-2.5 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus gippslandicus*.

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 gippslandicus differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with convex whorls; prostate gland about 1/2–2/3 in pallial roof; pallial vas deferens raised above surface, with overlying loops/coils at prostate gland; coiled oviduct and bursal join just behind pallial wall.

This species is not found in sympatry with any other species of *Austropyrgus*.

Classification

Austropyrgus gippslandicus (Ponder, Colgan, Clark, Miller & Terzis, 1994)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: Fluvidona gippslandica Ponder, Colgan, Clark, Miller & Terzis, 1994. In Ponder, W.F., Colgan, D. J., Clark, G. A., Miller, A. C. & Terzis, T. (1994). Microgeographic, genetic and morphological differentiation of freshwater snails—the Hydrobiidae of Wilsons Promontory, Victoria, south-eastern Australia. *Australian Journal of Zoology* 42: 557–678.

Type locality: Franklin River at South Gippsland Hwy, E of Foster, Victoria.

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 currently only known from a few small tributaries of the Franklin River, north of Wilsons Promontory, eastern Victoria.

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.

Ponder, W. F., Colgan, D. J., Clark, G. A., Miller, A. C. & Terzis, T. (1994). Microgeographic, genetic and morphological differentiation of freshwater snails - the Hydrobiidae of Wilson's Promontory, Victoria, south-eastern Australia. *Australian Journal of Zoology* 42: 557-678.

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

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