



## *Austropyrgus goliathus* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003



Distribution of *Austropyrgus goliathus*

*Austropyrgus goliathus* (adult size 3.7-4.7 mm)

### Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus rectus* group, with members characterised by small to-medium sized, narrow to broad shells, with spires of average length to very elongate, a straight outline, and typically flattened to slightly convex whorls. The coiled oviduct has one or more bends, loops or twists.

*Austropyrgus goliathus* differs from the other members of this group in the following combination of characters: shell of medium size (up to 4.7 mm), broad, with flattened whorls, last whorl and base sub-angled; basal projection of lateral teeth U-shaped, ovary simple, rectum indenting albumen gland.

### Classification

*Austropyrgus goliathus* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Austropyrgus goliathus* 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:* . Spring Creek, northeast of Curdies Inlet, Victoria.

## 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 the small coastal streams and rivers of central western Victoria and King Island, Bass Strait (fide KI. Richards).

## Notes

Most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, and this one is no exception. This species is the largest member of the genus, and the second largest of all known Australian tateids (the largest is *Phrantela richardsoni*).

## 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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