



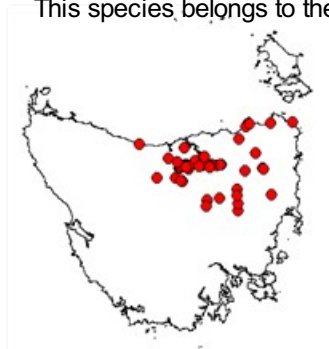
Austropyrgus gunnii (Frauenfeld, 1863)

Diagnostic features

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



Austropyrgus gunnii (adult size 2.1-3 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus gunnii*.

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 gunnii differs from the other species of this group in the following combination of characters: shell small to medium in size, spire outline straight, with convex whorls; central teeth with 6–7 lateral cusps; lateral teeth with 6–8 cusps; inner marginal teeth with 32–35 cusps; pallial vas deferens straight or slightly undulating at prostate gland and with several coils or S-shape bends between prostate gland and penis; anterior end of capsule gland blunt.

Classification

Austropyrgus gunnii (Frauenfeld, 1863)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: Hydrobia gunnii Frauenfeld, 1863. In Frauenfeld, G. R. (1863). Vorläufige aufzählung der arten der gattungen *Hydrobia* Htm. und *Amnicola* Gld. Hldm. in der kaiserlichen und Cuming's Sammlung. Verhandlungen de Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft, Wien 13: 1017–1032.

Type locality: Tasmania— restricted to South Esk River, Cataract Gorge, Launceston, Tasmania by Clark et al. (2003).

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 throughout the drainage of the South Esk River and in other riverine locations in the eastern half of northern Tasmania.

Notes

Although most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, a few - such as *A. gunnii* - have wider ranges.

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.

Smith, B. J. & Kershaw, R. C. (1979). *Field guide to the non-marine Molluscs of South-eastern Australia*. Canberra, A.N.U. Press.

Smith, B. J. & Kershaw, R. C. (1981). *Tasmanian Land and Freshwater Molluscs*. Hobart, University of Tasmania.

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

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