



Austropyrgus lochi Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003



Austropyrgus lochi (adult size 1.8-2.4 m)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus lochi*.

Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus petterdianus* group, whose members are characterised by the following shell features: aperture slightly disjunct, with last whorl and base evenly convex; outer lip without reflection; shell colour yellow-brown and translucent.

A. lochi differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with elongated spire, straight spire outline and flattened to slightly convex whorls; anterior end of ctenidium abutting pericardium; pallial vas deferens strongly undulating at prostate gland.

This species can be found in sympatry with six other species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. juliae*, *A. ronkershawi*, *A. procerus*, *A. mersus*, *A. conicus* and *A. rectoides*) throughout its currently recognised range, with up to three in any one location. Its shell can be distinguished by its tall, narrow spire and straight outline. It is often found with *A. juliae*, but differs in its slightly broader, more conical shell with more flattened whorls.

Classification

Austropyrgus lochi Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: *Austropyrgus lochi* 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 tributary of Little Claytons Rivulet, off Thompson Road, south of Ulverstone, 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 found in small streams across the mid-western part of the north coast to the mid-north coast of Tasmania.

Notes

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

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

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