



***Austropyrgus mersus* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003**



Austropyrgus mersus (adult size 1.3-1.8 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus mersus*.

Diagnostic features

This species can be found in sympatry with up to three species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. conicus*, *A. rectoides* and *A. lochi*) throughout its range. It can be distinguished from the other Tasmanian species by its small size and broad, squat shell that has a convex outline. The only similar Tasmanian species is *A. conicus*, which is larger.

Classification

Austropyrgus mersus Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: Austropyrgus mersus 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: Dip Falls, Dip River, Arthur River area, above falls, Tasmania (41°02.20' S 145°22.70' E).

Biology and ecology

This species is found on weeds, leaves, roots and stones and can be locally common.

Distribution

Austropyrgus mersus occurs in a few small streams and rivers mainly around the Dip Falls area of northwest Tasmania.

Notes

Most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges, and this one has a rather small range.

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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