



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



*Austropyrgus nanus* (adult size 1.2-1.9 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus nanus*.

### Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus cooma* group, whose members are characterised by generally pupiform to conical, small to medium-sized shells, where the last whorl and base are evenly convex.

*A. nanus* differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with convex spire outline; outer lip weakly thickened and without reflection; bursa copulatrix ovoid; capsule gland with anterior end tapering and compressed-oval in cross section.

This species is the smallest member of the genus and among the few that exhibit obvious sexual dimorphism in shell size, with the females significantly larger than the males.

### Classification

*Austropyrgus nanus* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Austropyrgus nanus* 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:* Natural thermal spring, south of dam and pool, Hastings Thermal Springs, west of Hastings, Tasmania.

## Biology and ecology

Occurs in warm water creeks fed by thermal springs, and can be extremely abundant throughout the very small area where it can be found crawling on all substrata. This species and *A. solitarius* are the only two tateids to be found in this habitat in Tasmania.

## Distribution

This species is found in a number of small warm water creeks (25°C) that are part of Hastings Hot Springs group, south-eastern Tasmania.

## 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.

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