



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



Austropyrgus pusillus (adult size 1.1-1.6 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus pusillus*.

Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus sparsus* group, with members 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 pusillus differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with straight to weakly-convex spire outline and convex whorls; ctenidium with 9–12 filaments; prostate gland about 2/3 in pallial roof; ovary simple.

This species has been found in sympatry with four other species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. exiguus*, *A. glenelgensis*, *A. tumidus* and *A. latus*) throughout its currently recognized range. It differs from *A. exiguus* in its very small, squat shell, and weakly thickened outer lip (heavily thickened in *A. exiguus*), from *A. glenelgensis* in its much smaller shell with a more truncated spire, from *A. tumidus* in its much smaller, narrower shell, and from *A. latus* in its much smaller shell with convex whorls. The only other taxon with a similar shell is *A. salvus* from Tasmania, which is larger in size.

Classification

Austropyrgus pusillus Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: Austropyrgus pusillus 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 Glenelg River, at Dartmoor, 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 known from a number of small springs and streams which flow into the lower part of the Glenelg River, western Victoria.

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

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