



Austropyrgus ronkershawi Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003



Austropyrgus ronkershawi (adult size 2-2.9 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus ronkershawi*.

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 ronkershawi differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small to medium in size, spire elongate to average length, outline straight and whorls convex; pallial vas deferens S-shaped at prostate gland.

This species is found in sympatry with at least three other species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. gunnii*, *A. lochi* and *A. diemensis*) throughout its currently recognised range. It differs from *A. gunnii* in its smaller, narrower shell with less rounded whorls, from *A. lochi* in its larger, broader shell with a shorter spire, and from *A. diemensis* in its narrower shell with less rounded whorls.

Classification

Austropyrgus ronkershawi Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: *Austropyrgus ronkershawi* 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: Black Sugarloaf Creek at Bensemans Road, west of Birralee, 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 known from a number of small streams and rivers of central northern Tasmania.

Notes

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

To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

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

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