



## *Austropyrgus smithii* (Petterd, 1889)



*Austropyrgus smithii* (adult size 1.7-2.2 mm)

### Diagnostic features

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus cooma* group, whose



Distribution of *Austropyrgus smithii*.

members are characterised by generally pupiform to conical, small to medium-sized shells, where the last whorl and base are evenly convex.

*A. smithii* differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with convex spire outline and slightly convex whorls; pallial vas deferens straight at prostate gland; penis base pigmented; anterior end of capsule gland tapering.

This species can be found in sympatry with at least two species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. nanoacuminatus* and *A. conicus*) throughout its currently recognised range. It is most similar to *A. conicus*, from which it differs mainly in its narrower shell.

### Classification

*Austropyrgus smithii* (Petterd, 1889)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name: Potamopyrgus smithii* Petterd, 1889. In Petterd, W. F. (1889). Contributions for a systematic catalogue of the aquatic shells of Tasmania. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* 1888: 60–83, plates 1–4.

*Type locality:* Heazlewood River, 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 a number of the small streams and rivers of northwest Tasmania.

## Notes

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

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