



***Austropyrgus sparsus* (Iredale, 1944)**

Diagnostic features

This is one of several species of *Austropyrgus* found in the southern



Austropyrgus sparsus (adult size 2.2-2.8 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus sparsus*.

half of New South Wales. They are all very similar, being separated on small differences in size and shape of the shells and in anatomical details. They have elongate-conic shells with adults having a slightly thickened aperture and the operculum bears several pegs. Most species of *Austropyrgus* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges.

A. sparsus is similar to the other species in southern NSW and eastern Victoria except except *A. synoria*. It differs from *A. tathraensis*, *A. abercrombiensis* and *A. dekeyzeri* in not possessing a distinctly reflected outer lip. The shell can be separated from *A. buechanensis* by its more convex whorls and from *A. abercrombiensis* by its broader shape.

Classification

Austropyrgus sparsus (Iredale, 1944)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

Original name: Potamopyrgus sparsus Iredale, 1944. In Iredale, T. (1944). Guide to the freshwater shells of New South Wales, class Gastropoda, part II. *Australian Naturalist* 11(5): 113-127.

Type locality: Braidwood, New South Wales.

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. Presumed solitary capsules with single egg. Direct development.

Distribution

This species is known from a number of small streams around the Braidwood area of southern New South Wales.

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.

Iredale, T. (1944). Guide to the freshwater shells of New South Wales. class Gastropoda, part II. *Australian Naturalist* 11: 113–127.

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

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