



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



*Austropyrgus spectus* (adult size 1.5-2 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus spectus*.



*Austropyrgus spectus*, type locality. Photo C. Lydeard.



*Austropyrgus spectus*, type locality. Photo C. Lydeard.

### 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 spectus* can be distinguished from other western Victorian members of the *A. sparsus* group by its small, narrow, conical shell, and the only other closely similar species is *A. fonscultus* from south-eastern

South Australia, although that species has a more conical shell.

## Classification

*Austropyrgus spectus* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Austropyrgus spectus* 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 coastal springs at The Watering Place, 2 km from car park, Cape Duquesne, Victoria.

## Biology and ecology

This species occurs in freshwater springs that emerge from the steep rocky shoreline. It is found crawling on all substrata present within the springs and is very abundant. The springs themselves are very small, only a few centimetres deep at the most and only a few meters long before they enter the sea. As the water from the springs becomes brackish by mixing with seawater, the estuarine tateid *Ascorhis tasmanicus* (Martens, 1858) can be found living with *A. spectus* in the slightly brackish areas.

Assumed to feed by scraping bacteria and microalgae. Lay solitary capsules containing a single egg. Direct development.

## Distribution

This species is known from a few quite small springs, all in close proximity to one another and located within a few meters of the Southern Ocean at Cape Duquesne, south of Portland, 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.

---

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/](https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/freshwater_molluscs/)

To contact the authors for comment or suggestions, please email: [fwmollusc@gmail.com](mailto:fwmollusc@gmail.com)

Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved. The Australian Museum.

