



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



*Austropyrgus stevensmithi* (adult size 1.4-2.1 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus stevensmithi*.

### **Diagnostic features**

This species belongs to the *Austropyrgus petterdianus* group, whose members are characterised by the following shell features: aperture slightly disjunct, with last whorl and base evenly convex; outer lip without reflection; shell colour yellow-brown and translucent.

*A. stevensmithi* differs from other members of the group in the following combination of characters: shell small, with elongated spire and straight to weakly convex spire outline; ctenidium abutting anterior end of the pericardium; prostate gland about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in pallial roof; pallial vas deferens S-shaped at prostate.

This species can be found in sympatry with three other species of *Austropyrgus* (*A. conicus*, *A. rectoides* and *A. procerus*) throughout its currently recognised range, from which it can be distinguished by its small, narrow shell with an elongate spire and slightly rounded whorls.

### **Classification**

*Austropyrgus stevensmithi* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

*Infraclass* Caenogastropoda

*Order* Littorinida

*Suborder* Rissoidina

*Superfamily* Truncatelloidea

*Family* Tateidae

*Genus* *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Austropyrgus stevensmithi* 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:* Creek, 14.7 km southwest of Rapid 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 known from several small streams from northwest Tasmania.

## Notes

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