



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



*Austropyrgus tathraensis* (adult size 2.1-2.8 mm)



Distribution of *Austropyrgus tathraensis*.

### Diagnostic features

This is one of several species of *Austropyrgus* found in the southern 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. Like most species of *Austropyrgus*, it is geographically isolated and has a restricted range. This species is found around Bega and Tathra.

*Austropyrgus tathraensis* is most similar to *A. sparsus*, *A. wombeyanensis*, *A. buchanensis* and *A. abercrombiensis*. It differs from *A. sparsus* in lacking a simple outer lip (i.e. it is not reflected). From *A. wombeyanensis* it differs in its slightly narrower shell and in some radular differences while *A. buchanensis* has a slightly broader shell and some anatomical differences.

### Classification

*Austropyrgus tathraensis* Clark, Miller & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

*Infraclass* Caenogastropoda

*Order* Littorinida

*Suborder* Rissoidina

*Superfamily* Truncatelloidea

*Family* Tateidae

*Genus* *Austropyrgus* Cotton, 1942

*Original name:* *Austropyrgus tathraensis* 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:* Tributary of Wapengo Creek, on Tathra-Bermagui Road, New South Wales.

## Biology and ecology

In small 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

Small streams in coastal areas around Bega and Tathra, 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.

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