



Aviassiminea palitans Fukuda & Ponder, 2003



Aviassiminea palitans (adult size up to 3.7 mm)



Aviassiminea palitans



Distribution of *Aviassiminea palitans*



Little Roper River at Mataranka, Northern Territory.
Seepages on the banks are habitat for *A. palitans*. Photo: V. Kessner.

Diagnostic features

Aviassiminea is similar to *Austroassiminea* in shell characters, sharing a small, conical, reddish shell with a narrow, open umbilicus, and convex whorls, but differs in a number of other characters including the shell, which is smaller and narrower, with no distinct spiral and axial sculpture (present in *Austroassiminea*), and in lacking cephalic tentacles (well developed in *Austroassiminea*). As in *Austroassiminea*, the snout is moderately long, bilobed and the foot is large, wide, with the anterior and posterior ends simple and rounded.

Classification

Aviassiminea palitans Fukuda & Ponder, 2003

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Assimineidae

Subfamily: Assimineinae

Genus *Aviassiminea* Fukuda & Ponder, 2003 (Type species *Aviassiminea palitans* Fukuda & Ponder, 2003).

Original name: *Aviassiminea palitans* Fukuda & Ponder, 2003. In Fukuda, H. & Ponder, W. F. (2003).

Australian freshwater assimineids, with a synopsis of the Recent genus-group taxa of the Assimineidae (Mollusca: Caenogastropoda: Rissooidea). *Journal of Natural History* 37: 1977-2032.

Type locality: Great Sandy Desert, SSW of Lagrange, Pilbara, Western Australia.

Biology and ecology

On mud and dead vegetation around edges of freshwater pools, springs and seepage areas. Also in damp crevices in vine thickets.

Distribution

This species is known from four geographically well-separated areas across the western half of northern Australia: the Pilbara Region; Millstream and springs in the Great Sandy Desert; mid- and eastern coastal Kimberley (Bonaparte Archipelago and northern end of the Ningbing Ranges); and Mataranka (Northern Territory) and nearby areas.

Notes

This species does not closely resemble any other Australian assimineid in shell characters other than *Austroassiminea lethra*. There is no other gastropod living in the area occupied by *A. palitans* that can be easily confused with it. The species, as currently recognised, occurs in springs in the western half of northern Australia.

Further reading

Fukuda, H. (2019). Assimineidae H. & A. Adams, 1856. Pp. 94-100 in C. Lydeard & Cummings, K. S. *Freshwater Mollusks of the World: a Distribution Atlas*. Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press.

Fukuda, H. & Ponder, W. F. (2003). Australian freshwater assimineids, with a synopsis of the Recent genus-group taxa of the Assimineidae (Mollusca: Caenogastropoda: Rissooidea). *Journal of Natural History* 37: 1977-2032.

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

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