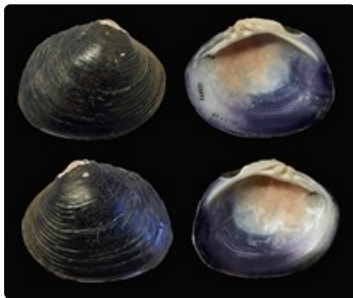




## ***Batissa violacea* (Lamarck, 1818)**

### **Diagnostic features**

This very large, thick-shelled bivalve is ovate to almost circular in



*Batissa (Batissa) violacea* (adult size up to 150 mm)



Distribution of *Batissa violacea*.

outline; inside of the valves are purplish in colour, and the exterior is purplish with a thick black to olive periostracum. Most have well-developed collabral growth lines on the exterior surface, particularly anteriorly. The hinge teeth are of the heterodont type, very strong, with up to three cardinal teeth (which may be bifid) in each valve. The well-developed lateral teeth are coarsely serrated. There is a strong external ligament posterior to the umbones. There is no lunule and no escutcheon. The pallial line is entire.

The gills are eulamellibranch and the foot is a compressed, tongue shaped foot lacking a byssal groove. There are two relatively short posterior siphons and short papillae on the mantle edge. The mantle margins are not fused ventrally.

### **Classification**

***Batissa violacea*** (Lamarck, 1818)

*Common name:* Violet Batissa

*Class* Bivalvia

*Infraclass* Heteroconchia

Cohort Heterodonta

Megaorder Neoheterodontei

Order Venerida

Superfamily Cyrenoidea

Family Cyrenidae

Genus *Batissa* Gray, 1853 (Type species: *Cyrena tenebrosa* Hinds, 1842 by subsequent designation).

*Original name:* *Cyrena violacea* Lamarck, 1818. In Lamarck, J. B. P. (1818). *Histoire Naturelle des Animaux sans Vertèbres*. Paris: Deterville & Verdier, 5:1-612.

*Type locality:* Unknown.

*Synonyms:* *Batissa australis* Deshayes, 1855; *Batissa elegans* Prime, 1862; *B. sphaericula* Prime 1862; and several more.

## Biology and ecology

Lives in lower freshwater sections of rivers and in the freshwater-estuarine interface. In intertidal to shallow water, infaunal, burrowing in sand and mud. Suspension and pedal deposit feeders. Dioecious, non-brooding (oviparous) with free-swimming larvae.

## Distribution

Rivers of tropical north-eastern Australia. An old record from the Richmond River in northern New South Wales needs confirmation, and records from South Australia are almost certainly erroneous. Also in Andaman Islands, Taiwan, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea and some SW Pacific Islands (e.g., Fiji, New Caledonia).

## Notes

Huber (2015) considered *Batissa australis* Deshayes, 1855 to be the valid name for the Australian species, not *B. violacea*. However, we do not consider it to differ from *B. violacea*.

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