



***Bayardella* Burch, 1977**

Diagnostic features

Snails with small neritiform or cylindrical shell with a low spire. The shell surface has raised spiral ribs and transverse striae, giving appearance of small, incised rectangles. The aperture length is almost equal to the whole shell, and has a continuous periostracal fringe. The columellar margin is reflected and slightly curved, without a columellar fold. A deep umbilicus is present.

The copulatory organ has an accessory bursa, but lacks a flagellum. A large muscular bulb is suspended from the proximal end of the praeputium, into which the duct of the accessory bursa opens. The anus lies on the anterior edge of rectal lobe.

Classification

Bayardella Burch, 1977

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Heterobranchia

Megaorder Hygrophila

Order Lymnaeida

Superfamily Planorboidea

Family Planorbidae

Subfamily: Miratestinae

Genus *Bayardella* Burch, 1977

Type species: *Plesiophysa (Bayardella) johni* Burch, 1977

Original reference: Burch, J.B. (1977). A new freshwater snail (Basommatophora : Planorbidae) from Australia, *Plesiophysa (Bayardella) johni*. *Malacological Review* 10: 79-80.

Type locality: Isdell River, Walcott Inlet, north Western Australia.

State of taxonomy

We follow Walker (1988). We know of at least one undescribed species of *Bayardella*.

Biology and ecology

Under wood and stones, in streams and waterholes. At least one species (*B. cosmeta*) capable of aestivation (Smith and Burn, 1976); biology otherwise unstudied.

Distribution

Northern, central and eastern Australian mainland.

Notes

Only *Glyptophysa (Glyptophysa) aliciae* has similar heavy periostracal spiral ridges. *Bayardella* has a narrower and much smaller spire and a less distinct shoulder and is smaller in size than *G. (G) aliciae*. *Bayardella* also has a much larger aperture compared to *G. (G) aliciae*.

This distinctive genus is rather rarely collected except in parts of the Northern Territory where it can be common in a few localities.

Further reading

Albrecht, C., Kuhn, K. & Streit, B. (2007). A molecular phylogeny of Planorboidea (Gastropoda, Pulmonata): insights from enhanced taxon sampling. *Zoologica Scripta* 36: 27-39.

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Smith, B. J. & Kershaw, R. C. (1979). *Field guide to the non-marine Molluscs of South-eastern Australia*. Canberra, A.N.U. Press.

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

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