



Beddomeia mesibovi Ponder & Clark, 1993



Beddomeia mesibovi (adult size 2.6-3.2 mm)



Distribution of *Beddomeia mesibovi*.



Tributary of Stephens Rivulet, a location at which *Beddomeia mesibovi*, another species of *Beddomeia* and three species of *Austropyrgus* have been found.

Photo: K. Richards.

Diagnostic features

Species in the *B. bellii* group are small to medium-sized (2.3-3.0 mm in length), ovate-conic to ovate and usually have a columellar swelling. The penis is simple (as in *B. belli* and *B. protuberata*) or with a lenticular brown gland in the middle. Species in this group are restricted to north-western Tasmania.

This species is one of five species that form a very distinct and apomorphic group, the other species being *B. topsiae*, *B. salmonis*, *B. gibba* and *B. fultoni* [1] [2]. All but one (*B. fultoni*) have a columellar fold on the rather broadly conic to ovate-conic shell, but the most distinctive feature is the presence of a large brown gland on the convex part of the medial section of the penis. *B. mesibovi* can be distinguished from the other members of the subgroup by the ventral channel of the capsule gland lacking an anterior vestibule and having a terminal genital opening.

Classification

Beddomeia mesibovi Ponder & Clark, 1993

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Beddomeia* Petterd, 1889

Original name: *Beddomeia mesibovi* Ponder & Clark, 1993. In Ponder, W.F., Clark, G.A., Miller, A. & Toluzzi, A. (1993). On a major radiation of freshwater snails in Tasmania and eastern Victoria - a preliminary overview of the *Beddomeia* group (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae). *Invertebrate Taxonomy*, 7: 501-750.

Type locality: Small stream S of Arthur River near Kanunnah Bridge, Tasmania (41°07'S 144°58'04"E).

Biology and ecology

On leaf litter and moss and under wood and rocks in streams. Egg capsules like those of other *Beddomeia* species (Karen Richards pers. comm.) - dome-shaped, with broad attachment base, covered with minute, mainly white sand grains and other fragments and containing a single egg. Development direct.

Distribution

This species is only known from a few small streams south of Arthur River, Tasmania.

Notes

All species of *Beddomeia* are geographically isolated and have restricted ranges.

This species is on the Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act 1995 as Rare (small population at risk).

Further reading

Ponder, W. F., Clark, G. A., Miller, A. C. & Toluzzi, A. (1993). On a major radiation of freshwater snails in Tasmania and eastern Victoria: a preliminary overview of the *Beddomeia* group (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae). *Invertebrate Taxonomy* 7: 501-750.

To cite this resource: Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. **Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

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

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