Bullastra Bergh, 1901

Diagnostic features

This genus is generally similar to *Austropeplea* but differs in its larger size and in having a distinctive twist in the columella. They have a fully aquatic (rather than amphibious) habit. These large-sized globose snails have large apertures and low to medium spires. The animal has fleshy triangular tentacles.

Classification

Bullastra Bergh, 1901

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Heterobranchia

Megaorder Hygrophila

Order Lymnaeida

Superfamily Lymnoidea

Family Lymnaeidae

Subfamily: Amphipepleinae

Genus Bullastra Bergh, 1901

Type species: *Bullastra velutinoides* Bergh, 1901 (=*Bullastra cumingiana* (Pfeiffer, 1855))

Original reference: Bergh, R. (1901) (1870-1908). Malacologische Untersuchungen *in* Semper, C. *Reisen im Archipel der Phillippinen , Theil 2. Wissenschaftliche Resultate.* Kreidel, Weisbaden.

Type locality: Philippines

State of taxonomy

We primarily follow Puslednik et al. (2009), however, lymnaeid taxonomy is in urgent need of a comprehensive review.

Biology and ecology

Amongst aquatic vegetation in dams, ponds, billabongs, sluggish rivers and streams. Often seen with the foot uppermost floating on the surface of the water. Feeds on algae and detritus. Egg mass a crescent-shaped jelly strip containing many small eggs. Development direct.

Distribution

Philippines and mainland Australia.

Notes

Unlike *Austropeplea* species in this genus are not intermediate hosts of Liver Fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*).

Further reading

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