



***Clithon* spp.**

Diagnostic features

This nerite has a low spire, and is highly variable in colour and pattern,



Clithon sp. showing colour variation in specimens from one location (adult size 10-16 mm in width).
Photo V. Kessner.

although diamonds and lines are common. It has a white to grey columellar callous with a weakly dentate edge to the white inner lip and a white aperture. The operculum is whitish with some grey colour or brownish.

Classification

***Clithon* spp.**

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Neritimorpha

Order Neritopsida

Suborder Neritina

Superfamily Neritoidea

Family Neritidae

Subfamily Neritinae

Genus *Clithon* Montfort, 1810 (type species *Nerita corona* Linnaeus, 1758) (Synonyms *Corona* Récluz, 1850;

Pictoneritina Iredale, 1936).

State of taxonomy

The specific status of the northern Australian taxa is uncertain.

Biology and ecology

This brackish to freshwater nerite lives in the lower reaches of mostly tidal streams. As with other neritids, egg capsules are small, oval and white.

Distribution

Known from a few coastal streams in northern Australia, from Kimberley to north-eastern Queensland.

Notes

There are apparently two or more species of *Clithon* that extend into freshwater in northern Australia but their identification is problematic.

Further reading

Cabat, A. R. & Finet, Y. (1992). Catalogue of the Neritidae (Mollusca: Gastropoda) described by Constant A. Recluz including the location of the type specimens. *Revue suisse de Zoologie* 99: 223-253.

Eichhorst, T. E. (2016). *Neritidae of the World*. Volumes 1 & 2. ConchBooks, Harxheim.

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

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