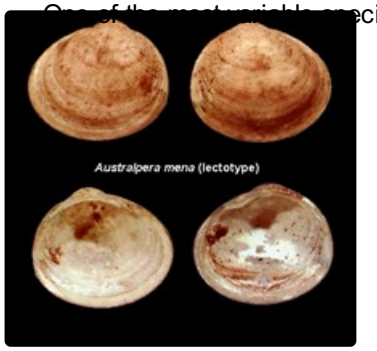
Euglesa etheridgei (E. A. Smith, 1882)

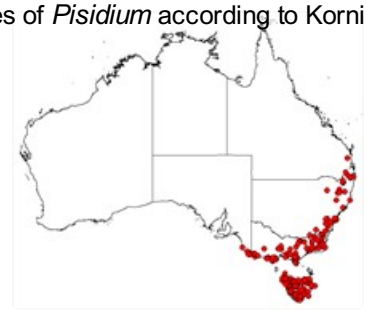
Diagnostic features

Euglesa etheridgei (adult size up to 5 mm)

One of the most variable species of *Pisidium* according to Korniushin,



Euglesa etheridgei (adult size up to 5 mm)



Distribution of *Euglesa etheridgei*.

where the variability of shell characters have a geographic pattern with a number of distinct local forms occuring. There is also some controversy as to the affinity of this species with *P. casertanum*, Korniushin offers a number of character states which separate the two species however the best diagnostic character is the markedly elongate presiphonal suture in *P. etheridgei.* Some specimens exceed 5 mm in length.

Classification

Euglesa ***etheridgei*** (E. A. Smith, 1882)

Common name: Pea shell, pea clam, pill clam

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Heterodonta

Megaorder Neoheterodontei

Order Sphaeriida

Superfamily Sphaerioidea

Family Sphaeriidae

Subfamily: Sphaeriinae

Genus Euglesa Jenyns, 1832

Original name: *Pisidium etheridgei* E. A. Smith, 1883. *In* Smith, E. A. (1882). On the freshwater shells of Australia. *Journal of the Linnean Society* 16: 255 - 317.

Type locality: Yan-Yean Reservoir, Plenty District, Victoria.

Synonym: *Australpera mena* Iredale, 1943.

Biology and ecology

The number of offspring produced is extremely variable - according to Korniushin - from 1-10 in each demibranch (typically between 4-8). *P.etheridgei* occurs most frequently in creeks and small rivers. In South Australia and Tasmania, it also occurs in lakes and lagoons. Suspension and deposit feeder.

Distribution

Through south-eastern Australia mainly following the Great Dividing Range between southeast Queensland and southeast South Australia, and Tasmania.

Further reading

Korniushin, A. V. (2000). Review of the family Sphaeriidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia) of Australia, with the description of four new species. *Records of the Australian Museum* 52: 41-102.

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Lee, T. (2019). Sphaeriidae Deshayes, 1855 (1820). Pp. 197-201 *in* C. Lydeard & Cummings, K. S. *Freshwater Mollusks of the World: a Distribution Atlas*. Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press.

Lee, T. & Ó Foighil, D. (2003). Phylogenetic structure of the Sphaeriinae, a global clade of freshwater bivalve molluscs, inferred from nuclear (ITS-1) and mitochondrial (16S) ribosomal gene sequences. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society* 137: 245-260.

Smith, B. J. (1992). Non-marine Mollusca. Pp. i-xii, 1-408 *in* W. W. K. Houston. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia*, 8. Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service.

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