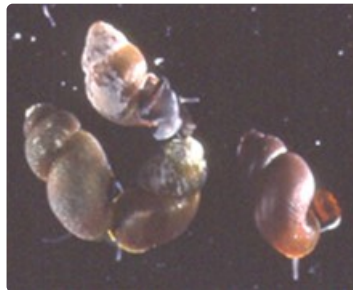




Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) aquatica Ponder, Hershler & Jenkins, 1989



Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) aquatica (adult size approximately 3.5-4.8 mm)



Fonscochlea aquatica - living specimens. Photo: W. Ponder.



Distribution of *Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) aquatica*.



Blanche Cup, a spring in the middle Lake Eyre springs. Photo J. Ponder.



Kewson Hill springs, Lake Eyre Supergroup, South Australia. Photo: W. Ponder.

Diagnostic features

This is the 'large aquatic' species of the middle and northern springs in the Lake Eyre supergroup. It has a larger shell than *F. accepta*. The operculum has rather weak to moderately strong pegs, or they are sometimes absent.

Classification

Fonscochlea (***Fonscochlea***) ***aquatica*** Ponder, Hershler & Jenkins, 1989

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Fonscochlea* Ponder, Hershler and Jenkins, 1989

Original name: Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) aquatica Ponder, Hershler & Jenkins, 1989. In Ponder, W. F., Hershler, R. & Jenkins, B. (1989). An endemic radiation of hydrobiid snails from artesian springs in northern South Australia: their taxonomy, physiology, distribution and anatomy. *Malacologia* 31: 1-140.

Type locality: Blanche Cup Spring, Lake Eyre Division, South Australia.

Biology and ecology

This is the large aquatic species living in the Middle, South-Western, Northern and Freeling Springs. It is generally abundant in the pool at the head of the springs. It can sometimes be seen clustering on the sides of the outflows but it is not amphibious and, if emergent, is covered by a film of water. Lives together with *Trochidrobia*.

Distribution

The Middle, South Western, Northern and Freeling Spring Groups in the Lake Eyre Supergroup, South Australia.

Notes

This is one of several species of *Fonscochlea* found in northern South Australia. They are all very similar, being separated on small differences in size and shape of the shells and in anatomical details. They have pupiform shells with adults having a thin to slightly thickened aperture and the operculum usually bears one or more pegs. *Fonscochlea* are among the most geographically isolated tateid snails in Australia.

Further reading

Ponder, W. F., Hershler, R. & Jenkins, B. (1989). An endemic radiation of Hydrobiidae from artesian springs in northern South Australia: their taxonomy, physiology, distribution and anatomy. *Malacologia* 31: 1-140.

Ponder, W. F., Egger, P. E. & Colgan, D. J. (1995). Genetic differentiation of aquatic snails (Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae) from artesian springs in arid Australia. *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society* 56: 553-596.

Ponder, W. F. (2004). Endemic aquatic macroinvertebrates of artesian springs of the Great Artesian Basin—progress and future directions. *Records of the South Australian Museum Monograph Series* 7: 101-110.

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

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