



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



*Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) billakalina* (adult  
size up to 2.4 mm).



Distribution of *Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea)*  
*billakalina*.

### Diagnostic features

This is the 'small aquatic' species of the middle and northern springs in the Lake Eyre supergroup. The shell is much smaller than *F. accepta* and *F. aquatica*. The operculum differs from the other small aquatic species in having weak to absent pegs.

### Classification

*Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) billakalina* 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) billakalina* 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:* Old Billa Kalina Spring, Lake Eyre Division, South Australia.

## Biology and ecology

This form is the small aquatic species living in the South-Western Springs. It is generally abundant in the upper outflow of the spring attached to hard objects such as pieces of wood, stones or bone. It is not amphibious.

Lives together with *Trochidrobia*.

## Distribution

The South Western Springs (including Billa Kalina Springs), 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., Eggler, 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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To contact the authors for comment or suggestions, please email: [fwmollusc@gmail.com](mailto:fwmollusc@gmail.com)

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