



***Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) variabilis*
(typical) Ponder, Hershler & Jenkins,
1989**



Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) variabilis (typical form)
(adult size up to 2.8 mm)



Distribution of *Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) variabilis*
(including form "conica").



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 '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 has strong pegs. Typical *F. variabilis* occurs in the middle and northern springs and the shell is usually smaller and more conical than typical *F. variabilis* and

the animal less pigmented. Both forms are found in the middle springs of the Lake Eyre supergroup, but typical *F. variabilis* is found in the larger springs and the *conica* form in the smaller springs (Ponder et al. 1989).

Classification

Fonscochlea (Fonscochlea) variabilis (typical) 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) variabilis (typical) 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 form is the small aquatic species living in some Middle 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 Middle and South Western, 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., Egglar, 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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