



Gyraulus (Gyraulus) essingtonensis (E. A. Smith, 1882)



Gyraulus (Gyraulus) essingtonensis (adult size 3.5-4.2 mm)



Distribution of *Gyraulus (Gyraulus) essingtonensis*.



Freshwater pond in northern Australia - typical habitat for several planorbids, including *Gyraulus essingtonensis*. Photo J. Walker.

Diagnostic features

The shell shape varies from depressed with a keel and fringe to high-whorled with only an obtuse angle on the periphery. The spiral sculpture also varies within and between samples, from very weak spiral ridges and is sometimes reticulate. Some strongly sculptured forms are similar to *G. hesperus* but that species differs anatomically (prostate with more lobes) and has a more elevated shell.

Classification

Gyraulus (Gyraulus) essingtonensis (E. A. Smith, 1882)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Heterobranchia

Megaorder Hygrophila

Order Lymnaeida

Superfamily Planorboidea

Family Planorbidae

Subfamily: Planorbinae

Genus *Gyraulus* Charpentier, 1837

Original name: *Planorbis essingtonensis* E. A. Smith 1882. In Smith, E.A. (1882). On the freshwater shells of Australia. *Journal of the Linnean Society of London, Zoology* 16: 255-316.

Type locality: Port Essington, Northern Territory.

Synonym: *Glyptaniscus coranus* Iredale, 1943.

Biology and ecology

This species lives in water weeds and other vegetation in waterholes, ponds, billabongs, swamps and sluggish streams and rivers from the Red Centre to tropical northern Australia. Feeds on detritus. Egg mass presumably a jelly strip containing small eggs. Development direct.

Brown (2001) described the anatomy of this species.

Distribution

This species occurs in northern and central Australia, from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Pilbara, possibly extending as far south as Perth - it also extends very far inland, to the Northern Territory-South Australian border.

Notes

This species exhibits extreme variability in size, sculpture, peripheral angulation and whorl count; it could possibly be conspecific with *G. gilberti* according to Brown (2001).

Further reading

Brown, D. S. (1981). Observations on the Planorbidae from Australia and New Guinea. *Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia* 5: 67-80.

Brown, D. S. (1998). Freshwater snails of the genus *Gyraulus* (Gastropoda: Planorbidae) in Australia: the taxa of Tasmania. *Molluscan Research* 19: 105-154.

Brown, D. S. (2001). Freshwater snails of the genus *Gyraulus* (Planorbidae) in Australia: taxa of the mainland. *Molluscan Research* 21: 17-107.

Hubendick, B. (1955). Phylogeny of the Planorbidae. *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* 28: 453-542.

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.

Willan, E. C. & Kessner, V. (2021). A conspectus of the freshwater molluscs of the Daly River catchment, Northern Territory. *Northern Territory Naturalist* 30: 108-137.

To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

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

To contact the authors for comment or suggestions, please email: fwmollusc@gmail.com

Copyright © 2023. All rights reserved. The Australian Museum.



