



***Gyraulus (Gyraulus) meridionalis* (Brazier, 1875)**



Gyraulus (Gyraulus) meridionalis (adult size up to 5 mm) (lectotype)



Distribution of *Gyraulus (Gyraulus) meridionalis*.

Diagnostic features

The periphery is subangled to distinctly angled, with angulation in middle or slightly towards upper surface (viewed with aperture on right). Some fine axial and spiral sculpture. The shell can reach about 5 mm in maximum diameter.

Classification

Gyraulus (Gyraulus) meridionalis (Brazier, 1875)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Heterobranchia

Megaorder Hygrophila

Order Lymnaeida

Superfamily Planorboidea

Family Planorbidae

Subfamily: Planorbinae

Genus Gyraulus Charpentier, 1837

Original name: *Planorbis meridionalis* Brazier, 1875. In Brazier, J. (1875). Descriptions of eight species of Australian and Tasmanian land and freshwater shells. *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 1: 17-20.

Type locality: Circular Head, Tasmania.

Synonyms: *Planorbis tasmanicus* Tenison Woods, 1876; *Planorbis brazieri* Clessin, 1885 (in part).

Biology and ecology

This species lives on aquatic vegetation and stones in temperate ponds, streams and rivers of south-eastern Australia. Feeds on detritus. Egg mass presumably a jelly strip containing small eggs. Development direct.

Brown (1998 & 2001) described the anatomy of this species.

Distribution

Tasmania, southern Victoria and south-eastern South Australia.

Notes

Brown (2001) considered that the distinct reproductive anatomy of *G. meridionalis* potentially justified a distinct subgeneric status for this species.

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.

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