



Hemistomia gemma gemma Ponder, 1982



Hemistomia gemma gemma (adult size 2.2-2.5 mm) Distribution of *Hemistomia gemma gemma* (red) and *H. gemma suturalis* (green).

Diagnostic features

The smooth pupiform shell is similar to that of *H. pusillior* but the operculum is thicker with a curved calcareous patch (not linear as in *H. pusillior*) and with up to three fused pegs. This subspecies is slightly larger than *H. gemma suturalis* (up to about 2.5 mm in length compared with 2.3 mm), is orange-brown (not yellowish-white) and weakly canaliculate to simple suture (suture strongly canaliculate in *H. gemma suturalis*).

The penis is simple in all *Hemistomia* species.

Classification

Hemistomia gemma gemma Ponder, 1982

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Hemistomia* Crosse, 1872

Original name: Hemistomia gemma gemma Ponder, 1982. In Ponder, W.F. (1982) Hydrobiidae of Lord Howe Island (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Prosobranchia). *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 33: 89-159.

Type locality: On south side of east - west ridge to Sugarloaf Point, at head of broad gully in wide seepage along cliff face, Lord Howe Island.

Biology and ecology

Found in streams, seepages and pools. It is assumed that like most tateids, the Lord Howe Island Tateidae feed on bacteria, microscopic algae, diatoms and possibly decaying vegetation.

Distribution

Confined to the catchment of the eastern slopes of Mt Gower, Lord Howe Island.

Further reading

Ponder, W. F. (1982). Hydrobiidae of Lord Howe Island (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Prosobranchia). *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 33: 89-159.

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

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