



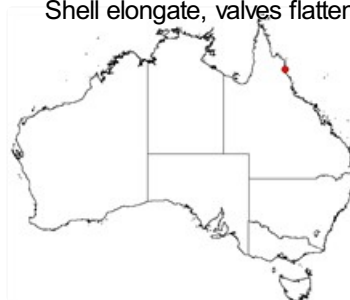
Hyridella aquilonalis (Iredale, 1934)



Hyridella aquilonalis (adult size may exceed 57 mm).

Diagnostic features

Shell elongate, valves flattened, oblong to dorso-ventrally compressed



Distribution of *Hyridella aquilonalis*.

oval, posterior edge rounded with a well-defined posterior ridge, postero-dorsal margin bluntly angled and dorsal margin anterior to beaks slopes away strongly, anterior edge rounded, ventral margin flat. Exterior of valves very dark olive, interior bluish to bronze. Exterior sculpture of valves with collabral growth lines and no traces of wrinkles. Reaches about 58 mm in length, height/length ratio less than 50%. This species differs from all other *Hyridella* species primarily in its very isolated occurrence in the Bloomfield River of far north Queensland – far north of the SE Australian populations of other *Hyridella* species and in its apparent lack of wrinkles near the shell beaks.

Classification

Hyridella aquilonalis (Iredale, 1934)

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Palaeoheterodonta

Order Unionida

Superfamily Unionoidea

Family Hyriidae

Subfamily Hyriinae

Genus *Hyridella* Swainson, 1840

Original name: Rugoshyria aquilonalis Iredale, 1934. In Iredale, T. (1934). The freshwater mussels of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 8: 57-78 pls 3-6.

Type locality: Bloomfield River, Queensland.

State of taxonomy

The last major taxonomic revision of Australian freshwater mussels was by McMichael & Hiscock (1958).

Based on the available molecular results, Walker et al. (2014) pointed out that a reassessment of Australian hyriids is needed.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in silty sand/mud in streams and rivers. Suspension feeder. Larvae (glochidia) are presumably brooded in the marsupia in the gills of females and, when released, likely become parasitic on fish gills or fins where they undergo metamorphosis before dropping to the sediment as free-living juvenile mussels.

Distribution

Bloomfield River, northeast Queensland.

Notes

The identity of this species needs to be assessed. Only the holotype is known from this locality, and, to our knowledge, the species has not been re-collected. McMichael & Hiscock (1958) thought that it might be related to *Hyridella depressa*.

Further reading

Iredale, T. (1934). The freshwater mussels of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 8: 57-78 pls 3-6.

Iredale, T. (1943). A basic list of the fresh water Mollusca of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 10: 188-230.

Lamprell, K. & Healy, J. (1998). *Bivalves of Australia, volume 2*. Leiden, Backhuys Publishers.

McMichael, D. F. & Hiscock, I. D. (1958). A monograph of the freshwater mussels (Mollusca: Pelecypoda) of the Australian region. *Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research* 9: 372-508.

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

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