

Hyridella depressa (Lamarck, 1819)



Hyridella depressa (adult size approximately 55-75 mm)



Distribution of *Hyridella depressa*.

Diagnostic features

This species is more elongate (maximum height relative to maximum length about 50%) than the other species of *Hyridella*, and the postero-dorsal margin is angled and the dorsal margin anterior to the beaks slopes away markedly while it is flatter in the other species. The beak sculpture is fine with v-shaped ridges restricted to the umbo, as in *H. drapeta*.

Classification

Hyridella depressa (Lamarck, 1819)

Common name: Depressed mussel, knife-shaped mussel

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Palaeoheterodonta

Order Unionida

Superfamily Unionoidea

Family Hyriidae

Subfamily Hyriinae

Genus *Hyridella* Swainson, 1840

Original name: *Unio depressa* Lamarck, 1819. In Lamarck, J.B.P.A. (1819). *Histoire Naturelle des Animaux sans Vertèbres*. Paris : J.B.P. Lamarck Vol. 6 (1) 2nd Edn 343 pp.

Type locality: Nepean River, near Sydney, New South Wales.

Synonyms: *Propehyridella nepeanensis novata* Iredale, 1943; *Unio mutabilis* Lea, 1859; *Unio paramattensis* Lea, 1862. *Rugoshyria depressa monticola* Iredale, 1934; *Rugoshyria depressa vicinalis* Iredale, 1934; *Rugoshyria depressa bega* Iredale, 1943; *Rugoshyria depressa lowanna* Iredale, 1943.

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 and one is now in progress.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in silty sand/mud in streams and rivers, including small mountain streams in flowing water. Suspension feeder. Glochidia larvae are brooded in the marsupia of the gills of females and are parasitic on fish.

This species is the most common in coastal rivers and streams (except for Hunter and Shoalhaven Rivers) and does not occur in billabongs.

Distribution

Coastal rivers and streams of coastal southeast Queensland, New South Wales (although absent from the Hunter and Shoalhaven Rivers) and eastern Victoria and in most areas in this range is the most common freshwater mussel (H. Jones, pers. comm.).

Further reading

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