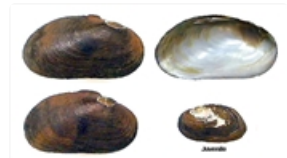
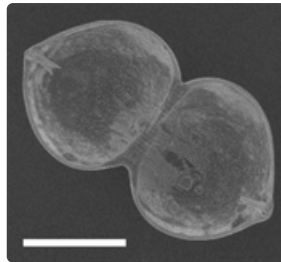




Hyridella drapeta (Iredale, 1934)



Hyridella drapeta (adult size 66-90 mm)



Hyridella drapeta glochidia. Scale 150 μ m
SEM photo M. W. Klunzinger.



Distribution of *Hyridella drapeta*.

Diagnostic features

This species differs from the other NSW species of *Hyridella* (except *H. depressa*) in having delicate beak sculpture. The shell is moderately elongate, oval, posteriorly evenly rounded and the posterior ridge is broad but weak and flattened while the dorsal margin is weakly winged. The beaks do not project above the dorsal margin and the ventral margin is straight to weakly concave. There is also a diagnostic sulcation between the anterior and posterior sections of the shell. The periostracum varies from steel grey to brown; it is never glossy and black as in *Hyridella australis*. Glochidia larval teeth are bifurcated.

The shell reaches about 90 mm in length, and the height/length ratio is less than 50%.

Classification

Hyridella drapeta (Iredale, 1934)

Common name: Freshwater mussel

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Palaeoheterodonta

Order Unionida

Superfamily Unionoidea

Family Hyriidae

Subfamily Hyriinae

Genus *Hyridella* Swainson, 1840

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

Type locality: Brisbane River, Queensland.

Synonyms: *Hyridunio australis orion* Iredale, 1934; *Hyridunio renutus* Iredale, 1934; *Hyridunio australis casus* Iredale, 1943.

State of taxonomy

The last major taxonomic revision of Australian freshwater mussels was by McMichael and 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, billabongs, and rivers. Suspension feeder. Larvae (glochidia) are brooded in the gills and, when released, become parasitic on fish gills before dropping to the sediment as young mussels. Releases glochidia from August to autumn. Parasitic on a wide range of freshwater fish including introduced mosquito fish (*Gambusia holbrooki*).

Distribution

Coastal rivers and streams of southeast Queensland, New South Wales south to and including the Shoalhaven River but absent from the Nepean River. Also present in Victoria (in the Gellibrand River).

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