



Hyridella (Protohyridella) glenelgensis (Dennant, 1898)



Hyridella (Protohyridella) glenelgensis (adult size
32-40 mm)



Unio glenelgensis (holotype)
Hyridella (Protohyridella) glenelgensis (Holotype)



Distribution of *Hyridella (Protohyridella) glenelgensis*.

Diagnostic features

This small species is distinctive in having a thick, amygdaloid-shaped (almond-shaped) shell with a very strong hinge and strong shell sculpture of distinct rugose ridges and wrinkles. There is a posterior wing with a prominent ridge. The beaks are heavily sculptured with 'V' shaped ridges and that sculpture extends onto the adult shell. Colour on outer surface olive to dark brown. Inside valves bluish, stained brown around the beaks. The shell reaches 40 mm in length and the height/length ration is 55-60%.

This species is separated from *Hyridella (Hyridella)* on the basis of its distinctive shell sculpture but is otherwise like *Hyridella (Hyridella)* in other shell features and general anatomy. McMichael & Hiscock (1958) noted that this species has prominent siphons of equal size, the exhalant siphon being brick red, inhalant being darker with three rows of internal papillae. The marsupium occupies the middle third of the inner demibranch in females.

Classification

Hyridella (Protohyridella) glenelgensis (Dennant, 1898)

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Palaeoheterodonta

Order Unionida

Superfamily Unionoidea

Family Hyriidae

Subfamily Hyriinae

Genus *Hyridella* Swainson, 1840

Subgenus *Protohyridella* Cotton & Gabriel, 1932 (Type species: *Unio glenelgensis* Dennant, 1898).

Original name: *Unio glenelgensis* Dennant, 1898. In Dennant, J. (1898). Description of a new species of *Unio* from the River Glenelg. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria* 10: 112-113.

Type locality: Roseneath, Glenelg River, Victoria.

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 brooded in the gills of females and, when released, become parasitic on fish gills before dropping to the sediment as young mussels.

Distribution

Glenelg and Wannon Rivers of western Victoria. One old record in the Australian Museum from Port Fairy, Victoria, collected in the late 1800s, was presumably obtained from the now degraded Moyne River.

Notes

This species is listed as Critically Endangered (CR) on the IUCN Red List and under the Commonwealth of Australia *Environment Conservation and Biodiversity Protection Act 1999* and the Victorian *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.

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