# *Leichhardtia sisurnius* (Hedley, 1918)

## Diagnostic features

Snails having small sinistral subglobose shells with unshouldered whorls; spire low, whorls rounded; aperture elliptical, parietal lip gently curved, parietal callus adheres to body whorl; anterior end of the aperture constricted which sometimes forms a short canal, umbilicus present. Body whorl traversed by spiral rows of striae and wrinkles which bear periostracal hairs in living specimens. Copulatory organ lacking accessory bursa or flagellum, pendant penis uniramous with lateral pore. Prostatic duct present, rectal ridge absent.

*Leichhardtia sisurnius* (adult size up to 11 mm)

*Leichhardtia sisurnius*, showing head-foot. Photo J. Walker.

Distribution of *Leichhardtia sisurnius*.

Typical *Leichhardtia* habitat, NW Australia. Photo J. Walker.

*Leichharditia* habitat: Creek SE of Kununurra on Duncan Hwy. Photo: J. Walker.

This species is readily recognised by the shell surface microsculpture consisting of fine raised points commonly coalescing into continuous wavy lines and the constricted anterior end of the aperture which sometimes forms a short canal.

## Classification

***Leichhardtia sisurnius*** (Hedley, 1918)

*Class* Gastropoda

*Infraclass* Heterobranchia

*Megaorder* Hygrophila

*Order* Lymnaeida

*Superfamily* Planorboidea

*Family* Planorbidae

*Subfamily*: Miratestinae

*Genus Leichhardtia* Walker, 1988 (Type species: *Bullinus sisurnius* Hedley, 1918).

*Original name*: *Bullinus sisurnius* Hedley, 1918. *In* Hedley, C. (1918). Narrative of an expedition of exploration in North Western Australia by Herbert Basedow. Special Report. Mollusca. *Transactions of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia* 18: 263-283, pl. 41.

*Type locality*: Paterson Range, Western Australia.

## Biology and ecology

On water weeds, wood etc., in ponds, billabongs, swamps and sluggish streams and rivers. Feeds on algae and detritus. Egg mass typically a bean(kidney)-shaped jelly strip containing many small eggs. Development direct.

## Distribution

Gulf of Carpentaria and Timor Sea divisions, northern parts of northwest Queensland, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

## Notes

The shell surface microsculpture of fine raised points which often coalesce into continuous wavy lines is characteristic as is the constricted anterior end of the aperture which sometimes forms a short canal.

## Further reading


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Beesley, P. L., Ross, G. J. B. & Wells, A., Eds. (1998). *Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis. Parts A & B*. Melbourne, CSIRO Publishing.

Hubendick, B. (1955). Phylogeny of the Planorbidae. *Transactions of the Zoological Society of London* 28: 453-542.

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