Limnoperna fortunei (Dunker, 1857)

Limnoperna fortunei (adult size up to 45 mm)

Diagnostic features

Limnoperna fortunei is very similar to *Xenostrobus securis*.

Limnoperna is typically yellowish in colour (it is commonly known as the golden mussel), while *Xenostrobus* is typically brown to black. Also, young specimens of *X. securis* have zig-zag brown markings not seen in *Limnoperna*. *Xenostrobus securis* has been referred to *Limnoperna* by several authors, however this relationship requires further investigation.

Classification

Limnoperna fortunei (Dunker, 1857)

Common name: Golden mussel

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Pteriomorphia

Cohort Mytilomorphi

Order Mytilida

Superfamily Mytiloidea

Family Mytilidae

Genus Limnoperna (Type species Dreissena siamensis Morelet, 1866 = *L. fortunei*).

Original name: *Volsella fortunei* Dunker, 1857. *In* Dunker, G. (1857). Mytilacea nova collections Cumingianae *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 24: 358-366.

Type locality: China.

Synonyms: *Dreissena siamensis* Morelet, 1866*; Modiola lacustris* Martens, 1875; *Limnoperna lemeslei* Rochebrune, 1882; *Modiola cambodjensis* Clessin, 1889; *Mytilus martensi* Neumayer, 1898; *Limnoperna depressa* Brandt & Temcharoen, 1971; *Limnoperna supoti* Brandt, 1974 (and others).

Biology and ecology

Limnoperna fortunei is a filter feeder found in brackish and fresh water. It can occur in great numbers, and populations can grow very rapidly. The preferred habitat of *Limnoperna fortunei* is on rocks and gravel, or any other hard surface, where it attaches to the substrate with a byssus.

Distribution

Native to China but introduced into other parts of Asia as well as South America. Not yet known from Australia.

Notes

Limnoperna fortunei is an invasive brackish and freshwater species. There is often an associated decline in the presence of native freshwater bivalves in areas where it has invaded.

This species has so far not been recorded in Australia, but is considered a potential risk as it is highly invasive elsewhere.

Further reading

Boltovskoy, D., Correa, N., Cataldo, D. & Sylvester, F. (2006). Dispersion and ecological impact of the invasive freshwater bivalve *Limnoperna fortunei* in the Río de la Plata watershed and beyond. *Biological Invasions* 8: 947-963.

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