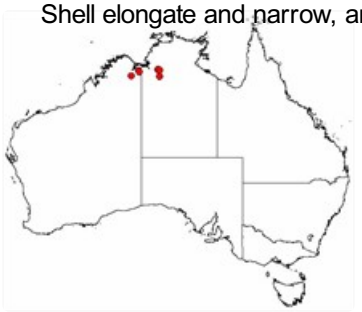
Lortiella rugata (Sowerby, 1868)

Lortiella rugata (adult size up to ~120 mm)



Distribution of *Lortiella rugata*.

Victoria River, NT. Photo V. Kessner.

Diagnostic features

Shell elongate and narrow, anterior end from umbo relatively short, margin rounded. Posterior end long and almost truncate. Dark olive brown, white internally. Differs from *L. froggatti* in being narrower in outline. As in all species of the genus, in young specimens the beaks and shell surface lack distinct sculpture.

Classification

Lortiella ***rugata*** (Sowerby, 1868)

Class Bivalvia

Infraclass Heteroconchia

Cohort Palaeoheterodonta

Order Unionida

Superfamily Unionoidea

Family Hyriidae

Genus Lortiella Iredale,1934

Original name: *Mycetopus rugatus* Sowerby, 1868. *In* Sowerby, G.B. (1868). Monograph of the genus *Mycetopus*. *Conchologia Iconica* 16, plts 1-3.

Type locality: Victoria River, Northern Territory.

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.

Biology and ecology

Shallow burrower in burrows in banks streams and rivers. Rarely found under rocks on river bottom. Suspension feeder. Larvae (glochidia) are brooded in the marsupia of the gills of females and, when released, to become parasitic on fish gills or fins where they presumably undergo metamorphosis before dropping to the sediment as free-living juvenile mussels.

Distribution

Victoria River of the Northern Territory and Ord and Chamberlain Rivers, Western Australia.

Further reading

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