



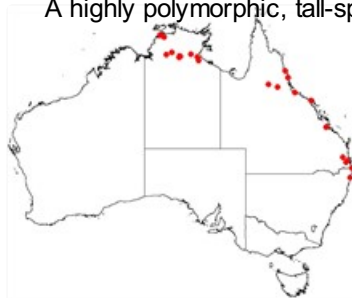
***Melanoides tuberculata* (Müller, 1774)**

Diagnostic features

A highly polymorphic, tall-spired species that is able to tolerate a wide



Melanoides tuberculata (size 17-24 mm)



Distribution of *Melanoides tuberculata*.

range of environmental conditions – both natural and man-made. Fresh and brackish waters in tropical SE Asia, Indo - Australasian archipelago into northern Australia. Has a thin elongated shell - usually narrower than *Thiara balonnensis* and without shouldered whorls. Light brown or cream in colour with darker flames and speckles.

Classification

Melanoides tuberculata (Müller, 1774)

Common name: Kangaroo snail

Class: Gastropoda

Infraclass: Caenogastropoda

Megaorder: Cerithiimorpha

Order: Cerithiida

Superfamily: Cerithioidea

Family: Thiariidae

Genus *Melanooides* Olivier, 1804 (Type species: *Melanooides fasciolata* Olivier, 1804, = *Melanooides tuberculata* (Müller, 1774)).

Original name: *Nerita tuberculata* Müller, 1774. In Müller, O. F. (1774). *Vermium Terrestrium et Fluviatilium, seu Animalium Infusorium, Helminthicorum, et Testaceorum, non marinorum, Succincta Historia. Havniae & Lipsiae:* Heineck & Faber Vol. 2, i- xxvi, 1-214 pp.

Type locality: In littorae Coromandel (ie, India, Coromandel coast).

Synonyms: *Melanooides fasciolata* Oliver, 1804; *Turritella turricula* Link, 1807; *Turritella tuberculata* Link, 1807.

Biology and ecology

Females have a brood pouch in the head. Boray (1982) records this species as an intermediate host for *Procerovum cheni*, an intestinal parasite. Found in rivers, creeks, springs, dams, lakes, irrigation canals and tropical fish aquariums. Lives on sand and mud.

Distribution

There are a few records of this invasive species from tropical Australia (Northern Territory, northern Western Australia, coastal Queensland) as well as northeast New South Wales.

The native distribution is subtropical and tropical northern Africa and southern Asia. It has been introduced to the USA, Cuba and several Caribbean nations, Brazil and Venezuela, Netherlands, New Zealand, and other places.

Notes

This invasive species is established in several parts of the world.

Further reading

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To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

https://keys.lucidcentral.org/keys/v3/freshwater_molluscs/

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