



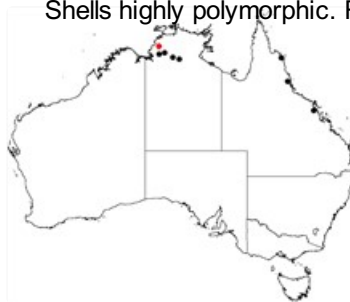
Mieniplotia scabra (Müller, 1774)

Diagnostic features

Shells highly polymorphic. Relatively small with pronouncedly stair-like



Mieniplotia scabra (adult size up to ~16 mm).



Distribution of *Mieniplotia scabra*. Black dots indicate additional records from Glaubrecht et al. (2009).



Little Roper River at Mataranka, Northern Territory. *M. scabra* is common at this locality. Photo: V. Kessner.

whorls and subsuturally angulated last whorl; spire mostly elongated, often decollated. With distinct axial ribs that apically often run out in short spines. Spiral sculpture of low cords which cross the axials on the lower half of the shell. Aperture oval, slightly narrowing at the upper margin, with the basal lip slightly flaring. Overall brown to black colour, with red to brown dots or flames. The operculum is oval and paucispiral.

Anatomy largely as for the rest of the Thiaridae: pigmented head foot with long, broad bilobed snout, and long, thin tentacles with eyes at their base, a mantle edge with many finger-like papillae. The radula is taenioglossate with loss of the basal extension on the central tooth of the radula. The ctenidium is long with long filaments. Salivary glands are anterior to the nerve ring. The stomach contains a short style sac, a crystalline style and a gastric shield. The female pallial gonoduct is closed along its entire length. A brood pouch is located in the neck region of the head foot in females.

Classification

Mieniplotia scabra (Müller, 1774)

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Megaorder Cerithiimorpha

Order Cerithiida

Superfamily Cerithioidea

Family Thiaridae

Genus *Mieniplotia* Low & Tan, 2014 (Type species: *Buccinum scabrum* Müller, 1774; India).

Previously placed in *Plotia* Röding, 1798 which is now placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid names (IUCN Opinion 386).

Original name: *Buccinum scabrum* Müller, 1774. In Müller, O.F. 1774 *Vermivm Terrestrium et Fluviatilium, seu Animalium Infusorium, Helminthicorum, et Testaceorum, non marinorum Succincta Historia*. Havniae& Lipsiae: Heineck& Faber Vol. 2 xxvi 214pp.

Type locality: "In paludosis littoris Coromandel Tranquebari Danorum maxime vulgarae; centena & ultra benevolentia D.Spengler" ie, India: Tranquebar Coromandel coast.

Synonyms: *Helix aspera* Gmelin, 1791; *Melania spinulosa* Lamarck, 1822; *Melania doreyana* Lesson, 1831; *Melania spinescens* Lesson, 1831; *Melanium granum* von dem Busch, 1842; *Melania scabrella* Mousson, 1848; *Melania acanthica* Lea, 1850; *Melania denticulata* Lea, 1850; *Melania pagoda* Lea, 1850; *Melania datura* Dohrn, 1858; *Melania elegans* Reeve, 1859; *Melania pugilis* Reeve, 1859; *Melania rugosa* Brot, 1860; *Melania snellemanni* Schepman, 1880; *Melania bockii* Brot, 1881; *Melania savinieri* Morlet, 1884; *Melania subcancellata* Boettger, 1890; *Melania pinguicola* Martens in Weber, 1897; *Melania varia* Bullen, 1904; *Melania intrepida* Fulton, 1914; *Melania sykesi* Degner, 1928.

Biology and ecology

On and in sediment, rocks and on water weeds in estuarine and freshwater rivers and streams. A detritus and algal feeder. Females are parthenogenic and reproduce by releasing at a fairly advanced stage of hatching as crawling juveniles and carry a varying number of embryos in the brood pouch (up to 29 shelled juveniles in different developmental stages).

Distribution

Monsoonal Northern Territory and tropical northeast Queensland.

Extralimittally from India and the Indian Ocean islands through SE Asia, the Philippines, New Guinea and southwest Pacific.

Notes

Shells are highly polymorphic. This species has a large, elongate shell with rounded whorls and strong axial and spiral sculpture. It is usually a light brown colour with dark brown flames and speckles. Thought to be invasive in some countries.

Further reading

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Glaubrecht, M. & Neiber, M. T. (2019). Thiaridae Gill, 1871 (1823). Pp. 86-89 in C. Lydeard & Cummings, K. S. *Freshwater Mollusks of the World: a Distribution Atlas*. Baltimore, John Hopkins University Press.

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Willan, E. C. & Kessner, V. (2021). A conspectus of the freshwater molluscs of the Daly River catchment, Northern Territory. *Northern Territory Naturalist* 30: 108-137.

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

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