



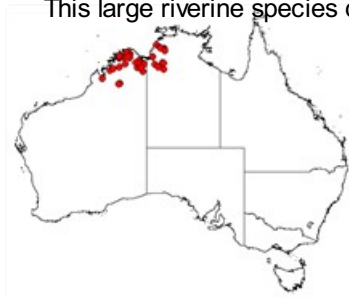
Notopala ampullaroides (Reeve, 1863)

Diagnostic features

This large riverine species differs from other species of *Notopala* in its



Notopala ampullaroides (size 20-26 mm).



Distribution of *Notopala ampullaroides*.



Mitchell River, typical habitat of *Notopala ampullaroides*. Photo V. Kessner.

short spire and large aperture, smooth or almost smooth shell and usually dark colour with often indistinct spiral lines.

Classification

Notopala ampullaroides (Reeve, 1863)

Common name: Kimberley river snail

Class: Gastropoda

Infraclass: Caenogastropoda

Informal group: Architaenioglossa

Order: Viviparida

Superfamily: Viviparioidea

Family: Viviparidae

Subfamily: Bellamyinae

Genus *Notopala* Cotton, 1935

Original name: *Paludina ampullaroides* Reeve, 1863. In Reeve, L. A. (1863). Monograph of the genus *Paludina*. *Conchologica Iconica* 14:plts 1, 5-11.

Type locality: Unknown.

Synonyms: *Paludina australis* Reeve, 1863 (preoccupied). *Paludina affinis* Martens, 1865 (preoccupied). *Notopala essingtonensis* Stoddart, 1982 (in part), fig. 2a (not of Frauenfeld, 1862).

State of taxonomy

The taxonomy used here for Viviparidae is largely based on unpublished research by W. Ponder. Several undescribed taxa are known that mainly occur in areas outside the distribution of the species recognised here.

Biology and ecology

This riverine species lives mostly under large stones in flowing rivers with permanent water. Although the biology of this species has not been studied, its anatomy shows that it is at least in part a suspension feeder, using the gill for filtering food from the water like other viviparids, and that it broods its eggs in the pallial oviduct. Brooded young are released sequentially (Stoddart 1982).

Distribution

Northern Western Australia, Kimberley Region, in rivers.

Notes

Stoddart (1982) incorrectly treated this species as a synonym of *N. essingtonensis*.

Banded species of *Notopala* found in several parts of northern Australia and Queensland are *N. essingtonensis*, *N. tricineta* and *N. kingi*, as well as some thought to be different species (W. Ponder, unpublished studies) which should be identified simply as *Notopala* sp.

Further reading

Cotton, B. C. (1935a). The Australian viviparous river snails. *Victorian Naturalist* 52: 96-99.

Cotton, B. C. (1935b). Recent Australian Viviparidae and a fossil species. *Records of the South Australian Museum* 5: 339-344.

Iredale, T. (1943). A basic list of the fresh water Mollusca of Australia. *Australian Zoologist* 10: 188-230.

Sheldon, F. & Walker, K. F. (1993). Shell variation in Australian *Notopala* (Gastropoda: Prosobranchia: Viviparidae). *Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia* 14: 59-71.

Smith, B. J. (1992). Non-marine Mollusca. Pp. i-xii, 1-408 in W. W. K. Houston. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia*, 8. Canberra, Australian Government Publishing Service.

Stoddart, J. A. (1982). Western Australian viviparids (Prosobranchia: Mollusca). *Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia* 5: 167-173.

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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