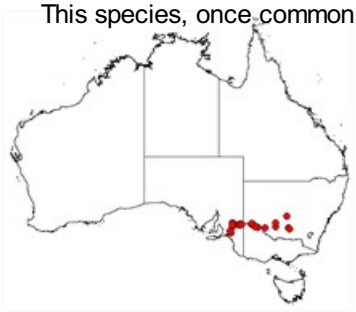
Notopala hanleyi (Frauenfeld, 1864)

Diagnostic features

This species, once common in the Murray River, appears to be extinct

Notopala hanleyi (adult size up to 32 mm)



Distribution of *Notopala hanleyi*.

Murray River near Morgan, South Australia. Photo J. Ponder.

Murray River, South Australia. Photo J. Ponder.

Notopala hanleyi. Living specimen. Photo: D. Gilligan.

in that river and in the Murrumbidgee River, although it survives in a few irrigation pipelines (Sheldon and Walker, 1993a). It differs from the similar *N. sublineata* in its larger, heavier shell, thicker, dark brown periostracum, and (usually) distinct but narrow shoulder below the suture of the last whorl. The head-foot is dark grey with yellow spots in *N. hanleyi,* but is unpigmented or very pale grey with yellow spots in *N. sublineata*.

Classification

Notopala ***hanleyi*** (Frauenfeld, 1864)

Common name: Hanley's river snail.

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Informal group Architaenioglossa

Order Viviparida

Superfamily Viviparioidea

Family Viviparidae

Subfamily: Bellamyinae

Genus Notopala Cotton, 1935

Original name: *Paludina hanleyi* Frauenfeld, 1864. *In* Frauenfeld, G. R. von. (1864). Verzeichniss der Namen der fossilen und lebenden Arten der Gattung *Paludina* Lam. Nebst. Jenen der nachststenheden und einrechung derselben in der verscheiden neneren Gattungen. *Verhandlungen der kaiserlich-königlichen Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft Wien* 12(2): 14: 561-672 (new namefor *Paludina intermedia* Reeve, 1863).

Type locality: 'Australia' (= River Murray, Australia).

Synonyms: *Paludina intermedia* Reeve, 1863 (preoccupied); *Paludina* (*Vivipara*) *purpurea* Martens, 1865.

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The taxonomy used here for Viviparidae is largely based on unpublished research by W. Ponder.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

Previously lived on muddy sides and bottom of river, often attached to wood and rocks. While once common it is now extinct except in a few irrigation pipes. Although the biology of this subspecies has not been studied, its anatomy shows that it is in part at least 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.

Distribution

Murray River and its tributary, the Murrumbidgee River; New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

Notes

This species is listed as endangered in New South Wales. It has sometimes been treated as a subspecies of *N. sublineata*.

Further reading

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Sheldon, F. & Walker, K. F. (1993b). Pipelines as a refuge for freshwater snails. *Regulated Rivers: Research & Management* 8: 295-299.

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Stoddart, J. A. (1982). Western Australian viviparids (Prosobranchia: Mollusca). *Journal of the Malacological Society of Australia* 5: 167-173.Beesley, P. L., Ross, G. J. B. and Wells, A. (Eds). 1998. Mollusca: The Southern Synthesis. Fauna of Australia. Vol. 5. CSIRO Publishing, Melbourne. Part A. Pp. i-xvi,1-563, Part B i-viii, 565-1234.

Walker, K. F. (1996). The river snail *Notopala hanleyi*: an endangered pest. *Xanthopus (Nature Conservation Society of South Australia Newsletter)* 14: 1-5.

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