



***Notopala sublineata sublineata*  
(Conrad, 1850)**



*Notopala sublineata sublineata* (adult size 16-27 mm)



Distribution of *Notopala sublineata sublineata*.



Darling River, near Louth, NSW after prolonged drought. Photo J. Ponder.



Dead *Notopala sublineata sublineata* washed out from among rocks making up a weir near Louth, NSW. Photo J. Ponder.



Weir near Louth, NSW, after prolonged drought. Photo J. Ponder.

**Diagnostic features**

This subspecies differs from the similar *N. hanleyi* in its smaller, lighter, thinner shell, which has a thin, yellow periostracum. The shell also lacks the shoulder below the suture of the last whorl that is usually seen in *N. hanleyi*. A subspecies, *N. sublineata alisoni*, occurs in northern drainages in western Queensland and northern South Australia. The head-foot is dark grey with yellow to orange spots in *N. hanleyi*, but is unpigmented or very pale grey with yellowish to pinkish spots in *N. sublineata*.

## Classification

*Notopala sublineata sublineata* (Conrad, 1850)

*Common name:* Darling river snail, northern NSW river snail

*Class* Gastropoda

*Infraclass* Caenogastropoda

*Informal group* Architaenioglossa

*Order* Viviparida

*Superfamily* Viviparioidea

*Family* Viviparidae

*Subfamily:* Bellamyinae

*Genus* *Notopala* Cotton, 1935

*Original name:* *Paludina sublineata* Conrad, 1850. In Conrad, R. A. (1850). Descriptions of new species of freshwater shells *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 5:10-11.

*Type locality:* Darling River, New South Wales.

*Synonyms:* *Paludina polita* Martens, 1865; *Notopala gatliffi* Cotton, 1935.

## 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The taxonomy used here for Viviparidae is largely based on unpublished research by W. Ponder.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 the muddy sides and bottom of the river, often attached to wood and rocks; previously common but now absent except in a few irrigation pipes and amongst rocks making up some weirs. Although the biology of this subspecies has not been studied, its anatomy shows that it is 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

Darling River and its major tributaries, New South Wales. It was once common and now appears to be almost extinct in the river, living only in some irrigation pipelines and amongst rocks making up some weirs.

## Further reading

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

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