



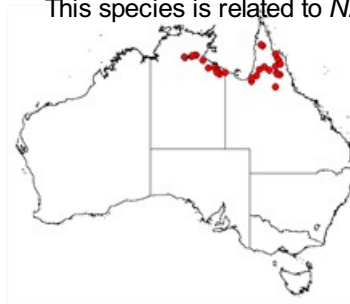
## *Notopala tricincta* (E. A. Smith, 1882)

### Diagnostic features

This species is related to *N. ampullarioides*, although different in its



*Notopala tricincta* (adult size up to 32.5 mm)



Distribution of *Notopala tricincta*.



Roper Bar, one of the locations where *Notopala tricincta* is found. Photo J. Ponder.

usually taller spire, paler background colour, much more distinct spiral colour bands and prosocline outer lip.

### Classification

*Notopala tricincta* (E. A. Smith, 1882)

*Common name:* Three-lined river snail

*Class:* Gastropoda

*Infraclass:* Caenogastropoda

*Informal group:* Architaenioglossa

*Order:* Viviparida

*Superfamily:* Viviparioidea

*Family:* Viviparidae

*Subfamily:* Bellamyinae

Genus *Notopala* Cotton, 1935

Original name: *Vivipara tricincta* E. A. Smith, 1882. In Smith, E. A. (1882). On the freshwater shells of Australia. *Journal of the Linnean Society of London, Zoology* 16: 255-316.

Type locality: Northern Australia.

## 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The taxonomy used here for Viviparidae is largely based on unpublished research by W. Ponder.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 under large rocks in permanent rivers or large streams. 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. Its brooded young are produced sequentially.

## Distribution

Coastal rivers in the eastern Northern Territory and north Queensland.

## Notes

This species was incorrectly treated as a synonym of *N. essingtonensis* by Stoddard (1982) and Smith (1992).

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are *N. essingtonensis*, *N. tricincta* and *N. kingi*, as well as some thought to be different species (W. Ponder, unpublished studies) which should be identified simply as *Notopala* sp.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

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