



Phrantela umbilicata Ponder & Clark, 1993



Phrantela umbilicata (adult size 3.9-4.6 mm)



Distribution of *Phrantela umbilicata*.

Diagnostic features

Apart from the trochiform shell, this species also differs in having a different operculum from any seen in the *Beddomeia-Phrantela* complex, the nucleus being more nearly central and there being a low spiral ridge in the middle of the opercular whorls. The two-whorled protoconch is also unusual in having very well-developed pitting. The rectum is extremely wide and the ctenidium very short and confined to the anterior part of the mantle cavity, being connected to the pericardium by a very long efferent vessel. *Phrantela bobbrowni* is intermediate in shell characters between *P. umbilicata* and other members of the genus but has an operculum and protoconch like those of the other species of *Phrantela*.

Classification

Phrantela umbilicata Ponder & Clark, 1993

Class Gastropoda

Infraclass Caenogastropoda

Order Littorinida

Suborder Rissoidina

Superfamily Truncatelloidea

Family Tateidae

Genus *Phrantela* Iredale, 1943

Original name: Phrantela umbilicata Ponder & Clark, 1993. In Ponder, W. F., Clark, G. A., Miller, A. C & Toluzzi, A. (1993). On a major radiation of freshwater snails in Tasmania and eastern Victoria - a preliminary overview of the *Beddomeia* group (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae). *Invertebrate Taxonomy*, 7: 501-750.

Type locality: Small creek, immediately upstream from Kutikina Cave, Franklin River, Tasmania (42°31'42" S, 145°46' E).

Biology and ecology

This species is now known from several streams in the same area as the original material (K. Richards pers. comm.). In the type locality it was rather common along the stream edges, living under lichens overhanging the stream in litter and silt. The egg capsules are unknown but are probably like those of an unnamed species of *Phrantela*; small, with single embryo, and covered in coarse sand grains. Development direct.

Distribution

The original material was collected in a small creek, just upstream from Kutikina Cave, Franklin River, western Tasmania and it has since been found in several streams in the same area (K. Richards pers. comm.).

Notes

This very distinctive species is included in *Phrantela* because it cannot be distinguished anatomically, although this may be because the key anatomical characters of *Phrantela* are plesiomorphic.

Further reading

Ponder, W. F., Clark, G. A., Miller, A. C. & Toluzzi, A. (1993). On a major radiation of freshwater snails in Tasmania and eastern Victoria: a preliminary overview of the *Beddomeia* group (Mollusca: Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae). *Invertebrate Taxonomy* 7: 501-750.

To cite this resource: **Ponder, W. F., Hallan, A., Shea, M. E., Clark, S. A., Richards, K., Klunzinger, M. W., and Kessner, V. 2023. Australian Freshwater Molluscs. Revision 2.**

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

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