



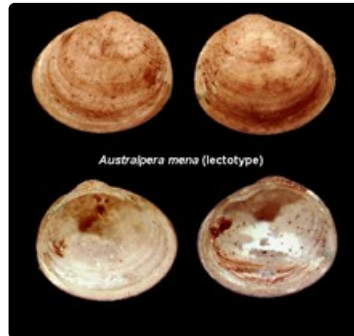
## *Pisidium (Euglesa) etheridgei* E. A. Smith, 1883

### Diagnostic features

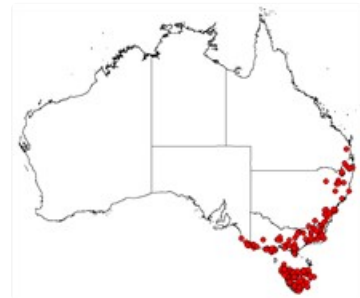
One of the most variable species of *Pisidium* according to Korniuschin, where the variability of shell characters have a geographic pattern with a number of distinct local forms occurring.



*Pisidium (Euglesa) etheridgei*  
(adult size up to 5 mm)



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Distribution of *Pisidium (Euglesa) etheridgei*.

There is also some controversy as to the affinity of this species with *P. casertanum*, Korniuschin offers a number of character states which separate the two species however the best diagnostic character is the markedly elongate presiphonal suture in *P. etheridgei*. Some specimens exceed 5 mm in length.

### Classification

*Pisidium (Euglesa) etheridgei* E. A. Smith, 1883

*Common name:* Pea shell, pea clam, pill clam

*Class* Bivalvia

*infraclass* Heteroconchia

*Cohort* Heterodonta

*Megaorder* Neoheterodontei

*Order* Sphaeriida

*Superfamily* Sphaerioidea

*Family* Sphaeriidae

*Genus* *Pisidium* Pfeiffer, 1821

Subgenus *Euglesa* Jenyns, 1832

*Original name:* *Pisidium etheridgei* E. A. Smith, 1883. Smith, E. A. (1883). On the freshwater shells of Australia. *Journal of the Linnean Society* 16: 255 - 317.

*Type locality:* Yan - Yean Reservoir, Plenty District, Victoria.

*Synonyms: Australpera menalredale*, 1943.

## Biology and ecology

The number of offspring produced is extremely variable - according to Korniuschin - from 1-10 in each demibranch (typically between 4-8). *P. etheridgei* occurs most frequently in creeks and small rivers. In South Australia and Tasmania, it also occurs in lakes and lagoons. Suspension and deposit feeder.

## Distribution

Through south-eastern Australia mainly following the Great Dividing Range between southeast Queensland and southeast South Australia, and Tasmania.

## Further reading

Korniuschin, A. V. (2000). Review of the family Sphaeriidae (Mollusca: Bivalvia) of Australia, with the description of four new species. *Records of the Australian Museum* 52: 41-102.

Kuiper, J. G. J. (1983). The Sphaeriidae of Australia. *Basteria* 47: 3-52.

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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.

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